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TRAVELS
IN
GREECE AND TURKEY,

UNDERTAKEN

BY ORDER OF LOUIS XVI.

AND

WITH THE AUTHORITY OF THE OTTOMAN COURT;

BY

C. S. SONNINI,

MEMBER OF SEVERAL SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETIES;
OF THE SOCIETIES OF AGRICULTURE OF PARIS,
AND OF THE OBSERVERS OF MEN.

Illustrated by Engravings,

AND

A MAP OF THOSE COUNTRIES.

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH.

Mores multorum vidit et urbes.

HOR.

L O N D O N:

PRINTED FOR T. N. LONGMAN AND O. REES, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

1801.

THE VOLUME

OF THE HISTORY AND TURKISH

AND

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OF THE HISTORY OF THE EAST



G. WOODFALL, PRINTER,
PATERNOSTER-ROW.

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— II. Firman of Sultan ABDOUL ACHMET, Emperor of the Turks, delivered to C. S. SONNINI.

— III. Scorpion-spider, or *galéode aranéïde*, of the natural size.

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No. 2. Fangri, a fish.

No. 3. Calamary, a polype.

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No. 1. Melanurus.

No. 2. Skatari.

No. 3. Cabrilla.

— VI. Drefs of the women of the Island of ARGENTIERA.

 The Binder is directed to arrange the Plates in a separate Volume, according to their numerical order.

ERRATA.

Many of the following being typographical errors that may affect the sense, the Reader is requested to mark them with a pen or pencil, before he enters on the work.

Page 24	Line 14,	for lies	read lie
29	13,	dele	and
37	19,	for these	read those
44	2,	for but dry	read but when dry
48	16,	for it is	read they are
58	9,	for appendage	read appanage
61	2 and 3,	for there	read here
65	9,	for replaces	read supplies the place of
77	20,	for tunney	read tunny
122	15,	dele	from view
127	17,	for wall-nut	read walnut
139	5,	for empirism	read empiricism
141	4,	for than	read when
165	10,	for mormylus	read mormyrus
176	Note*	for Squilla maritima	read Squilla maritima
178	3,	for appendage	read inheritance
192	19,	for cannon	read cannons
193	26,	dele	then
203	17,	for St. Irena	read St. Irene
	27,	for appendage	read appanage
256	1,	for dollars	read piaftres
	18,	for orchis	read orchifes
292	25,	for the evening	read in the evening
313	1,	for kuile de cade	read huile de cade
319	16,	for appendage	read appanage
345	20,	for are	read is
351	13,	for kemina	read hemina
375	11,	for the worms	read worms
388	1,	for hawks	read sparrow-hawks
391	20,	for Maine	read Maina
395	19,	dele	but before the word
417	27,	for phosphura	read prosphira
448	3,	for there	read here
481	17,	for appendage	read appanage
492	2,	dele	dry
515	29,	for shared	read partook

Note. Throughout Chapter III. and likewise in Chapter XXXVIII, we have constantly rendered the word *fauterelles* by *grasshoppers*, which, as is well known, are winged insects of a very devouring nature; but, on reconsideration, we are much inclined to think that the Author means *locusts*, from the length of the flights which he describes these insects to have taken.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of the following “ *TRAVELS IN GREECE*
 “ *AND TURKEY,*” being already known to the Public by
 his *TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT*, two translations of which appeared in our language in the year 1799, it only remains for us to premise that these sheets may justly be considered as a continuation of his itinerary. In his former work, he promised to present to the world an account of the other countries which he had subsequently visited; he has now performed his engagement, and in such a manner as to induce us to presume that those who have felt themselves gratified in travelling with him over EGYPT, will experience no less satisfaction in accompanying

accompanying him in his tour through GREECE and
TURKEY.

Endowed with a solid understanding, and a warm and brilliant imagination, SONNINI enlivens his journal by the variety of his descriptions, and neglects not to bring forward the contrast incessantly presented in GREECE by the magnificence of Nature, the poverty of the inhabitants, the mildness of the climate, and the cruelty of the plunderers who devastate those beautiful countries. His narrative is interperfed with historical anecdotes which recall to mind the enthusiastic heroism of the knights of RHODES, the fubtle activity of the Greeks, and the destructive policy of the Ottomans. The trader will here find every information that can be useful to him for rivaling the indefatigable industry of the French; the naturalist will meet with curious observations on
submarine

submarine volcanoes, which produce new islands in the Sea of the **LEVANT**, as well as on animals, plants, and minerals, hitherto little known or imperfectly described; the statesman will acquire interesting ideas relative to politics and government; and the moralist will pay a just tribute to the writer who constantly manifests an ardent zeal for virtue, a generous pity for misfortune, and an honest indignation against tyranny and all the crimes which it engenders.

LONDON, July the 20th, 1801.

INTRODUCTION.

INTRODUCTION.

EUROPE attentive, and the EAST astonished, were looking with eyes full of curiosity and inquietude towards EGYPT, which FRANCE covered with her legions, and with the fertile resources of her genius, with combatants as well as with artists and men of science. A bold project, executed with the rapidity of the thought which had conceived it; vast combinations, supported by all the means of a great power; a new plan of colonization, the advantages of which are inappreciable; the impure feat of barbarism and of the most fanatic ignorance, on the point of becoming the brilliant theatre of civilization and of the arts; the enemy's possessions in INDIA threatened; a sort of dismemberment of an ill-consolidated empire; the commerce of the LEVANT on the eve of changing its face, and of taking a new direction—every thing contributed to render the expedition to EGYPT a subject of astonishment to some, and of mistrust to others.

This general attention promised a favourable reception to works which, in describing EGYPT, not from books, but from observations made on the places themselves, in journies undertaken solely for the

purpose of collecting them, should fix the state of that country, at the moment of the enterprise of the French, and present a statement of the information acquired previously to their arrival. It is, no doubt, to circumstances so favourable that my "*TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT*" have owed their success, rather than to the manner in which they were written. We were certain of exciting interest by the picture of a country become the object of every conversation, of every idea; and the Public were disposed to judge with indulgence of the manner and colouring, in favour of the subject.

The traveller who should present himself with an account of his excursions and researches in EGYPT, might expect favour, if to the slightest habit of observation, he should add a sufficiently large portion of that respect which every writer owes to good taste and to the Public, not to shock both by a forgetfulness of propriety, futility of details, aridity of style, stiffness of narration, and, above all, by a positive and disdainful tone, which imposes only on ignorance, and which is itself the criterion of mediocrity; defects which writers do not always endeavour to avoid, and against which one cannot too strongly exclaim.

The honourable reception of my work respecting EGYPT has surpassed my hopes. It has not been confined to my own country; foreigners have participated in the same indulgence*. This, to my

* Two English translations of my *TRAVELS IN EGYPT* have appeared in LONDON; the one in three volumes 8vo. and the other in one volume 4to.

feelings, is the sweetest recompense of long labours of no very recent date, which a love for the sciences, and a wish to render myself useful, induced me to undertake, the only one that I am ambitious of, the only one too that I have obtained. This also, in my opinion, is encouragement the most powerful and the most flattering; and I have considered as an obligation, that it imposed on me, to publish my other Travels, which political phenomena, whose commotions change the face of empires, have decided me to draw from my port-folio, whence they would not otherwise have been taken.

Other countries, in the vicinity of EGYPT, are perhaps, like it, on the eve of experiencing a crisis which will cause them to assume a new aspect. The Ottoman government, like an immense and shapeless colossus, placed on a base of clay, seems ready to fall, and GREECE, which it crushes with its insupportable weight, must ere long, according to every appearance, if not resume her ancient attitude, at least break her chains, and occupy a rank among other nations, in the number of which her ancient and complete slavery prevented her from being reckoned. Whatever may be the new and inevitable destinies of a people formerly famous, the Public will not be sorry to know what they were at the moment of their deliverance and regeneration, and to represent to themselves the places which will be the theatre of it, as they were formerly that of memorable events.

A description of some parts of ASIA and ancient GREECE, which might afford a knowledge of their climate, their soil, their productions, their natural history, their present state of decay, their

inexhaustible resources of amelioration, and the picture of the manners, the customs, and the genius of the nations that inhabit them; which might offer a curious comparison between their situation a few centuries ago, and that in our days; which, in a word, might, by means of restauration in their agriculture and in their commerce, unfold their claims to a more prosperous condition, was therefore a work not destitute of interest.

And when Peace, too long banished from the earth, yielding at length to the wishes of nations, is descending from Heaven, and preparing to close the deep wounds which afflict the human race*; when, through her celestial influence, Guilt is disappearing with Want and Calamity, her melancholy and frightful companions; when Virtue is recovering her energy, and Talent her activity; when the sources of public prosperity, entirely dried up, are going to resume their course of felicity, and revive industry and commerce; when, in short, the want of repairing a time lost for happiness, and mournfully consumed in agitations and misfortune, of seeking in useful speculations, in an active and honourable labour, the forgetfulness of so many ills, and the indemnification of accumulated losses; when this general want is going to direct to foreign countries the combinations of commerce, the Public will, doubtless, consider as a picture very well calculated to favour these views, the indication of the places which present certain advantages to a kind of traffic that may be established with much ease and little cost.

* This introduction was written at the moment of the general armistice, concluded between the French and Imperial armies.

INTRODUCTION.

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Under these considerations, the work which I now publish has no fewer claims than the *TRAVELS IN EGYPT* to attention and indulgence. If, notwithstanding the number of travellers who have preceded me in that country, my account has been distinguished, I may venture to expect the same success for this; although it appears after productions no less numerous on the same subject, and among which are likewise to be found some much to be commended.

My *TRAVELS IN GREECE AND TURKEY* are, like those in *EGYPT*, the fruit of near two years of observation, and I present them with the greater confidence, as I have bestowed the same pains in digesting them.

It is more particularly in the Islands of the *ÆGEAN SEA* that I have directed my researches, in that multitude of groups of lands and rocks, scattered without order in the middle of this sea, as an eternal monument of its conquest over the continent. Divided by the ancients into *CYCLADES* and *SPORADES*, denominations at present forgotten, they are at this day known under the general designation of *ISLANDS OF THE ARCHIPELAGO*. Although I have not visited them all, the rather long stay which I made in some of them, the intercourse that I had with men who inhabited them, or were perfectly acquainted with them, the information that I acquired in the same countries, have enabled me to collect certain particulars respecting each of them, and to speak of them with precision.

The Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, most of which are remarkable for the fertility and the beauty of their soil, celebrated in antiquity, and famed for having given birth to great men, are still at this day important points of establishment, communication, or commerce. We have a great interest in being well acquainted with them; and I am of opinion, that my work will leave nothing to be wished for in that respect. This, at least, is the task which I have imposed on myself, and which I have endeavoured to accomplish.

We had already some general descriptions of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; one of the most extensive is that of DAPPER; it is the work of a geographer who describes what he has not seen, and only by copying what others had written before him. TOURNEFORT, that immortal man, full of science and taste, and whom every traveller, who publishes his accounts, ought to take for a model, has likewise described, but with a different pencil from DAPPER, these same Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO of the LEVANT. But since the travels of the French naturalist, as well as since the description of DAPPER, they no longer have the same appearance. The change of masters in some, the consequences of tyranny in all, time and other circumstances, have introduced differences between former accounts and the narrative which I now present. Besides, I shall here repeat what I have already said on the subject of my Travels in EGYPT, that it is impossible for the same man to observe every thing; the one collects what escaped him by whom he was preceded; and, in short, in like manner as painters have their particular *style* in representing the same subject, each observer has also his manner of seeing and describing what he has seen; so that the same object

may be perceived under different points of view, and the same circumstance be differently related by several persons, and still be interesting.

The form of narrative, indispensable in Travels across countries little known, that which most attaches the reader to the fate of the travellers, whom the passion of discoveries induces to run hazards and dangers, that which I have almost always employed in my work respecting EGYPT, will not be constantly followed in this. The nature of the surface of land and water over which I passed, in every direction and at various times, affords room only for short and dangerless excursions, the account of which cannot excite the interest inspired by travels of greater length and abounding more with difficulties. On the other hand, having frequently had occasion to return as I went, and to revisit the same countries, an uninterrupted relation would necessarily lead to tiresome repetitions. I have therefore resolved to speak of the places as they occur on my route, and as if I had followed the order of their position on the chart, omitting the cross and retrograde trips which I made, in fact, for the purpose of visiting them in succession.

A motive, still more powerful, would have been sufficient to determine me to interrupt sometimes the order of my narrative: it is that of truth. I have just said that I had not myself seen every thing; and, though the reader may rely on the information which I have collected respecting a few islands where I have not landed, the first of all obligations, for a traveller, being fidelity and exactness in his accounts, I shall take good care not to follow the
example

example of a modern writer, who has filled two volumes with the details of a journey which he had not performed, and who has not even omitted a crowd of minute circumstances, by which the narration assumes every appearance of reality. However, I shall give my itinerary whenever it shall afford any interesting matter. This plan, which I have adopted, because it has appeared to me the most suitable, will, methinks, diffuse in my work a variety of form and style, which cannot but prevent a too uniform tint of monotony, and occasion it to be read with greater pleasure.

It is not, however, to the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO that my excursions have been limited and that my observations will be confined: the large and beautiful Island of CANDIA, in which I made several journies, some parts of TURKEY in ASIA MINOR, MACEDONIA, and the MOREA, have been the object of my peregrinations, as they will be the subject of my story. In a word, I shall relate all that I have seen, all that I have learned respecting those different countries; and I have, in this respect, followed the advice of the French philosopher, whom we are always fond of reading again and again, and quoting, because, without bewildering himself in abstractions, he leads, by beaten paths, and with ingenuous and admirable sagacity, to the knowledge of the vices of society, and lays open all the recesses of the human heart. "*We want,*" says MONTAIGNE, "*topographers, who might give us a particular account*
" of the places where they have been—I would have every one write
" what he knows, and as much as he knows, not in that way only, but
" on all other subjects.*"

* *Essais*, Book i, Chap. iii.

The chart which is annexed to my book, is one of the handsomest and most complete that has been constructed of that extent of sea and land, which is usually distinguished by the name of the **LEVANT**. To my own nautical and geographical observations, I have added those of the seamen, travellers, and geographers, the most modern and the most esteemed; and, in order to give an idea of the pains which I have taken to render this chart as minute and correct as possible, it will be sufficient for me to remark that I have employed, for the northern part of **EGYPT**, the particular chart of Lake **MENZALEH**, which an able officer of artillery, the General of Division **ANDRÉOSSY**, Inspector-General of the corps of artillery, has very recently published, at the end of two excellent memoirs, respecting some points of **LOWER EGYPT***.

Nor to this alone has the assistance which I have received from General **ANDRÉOSSY** been confined; he has been so kind as to communicate to me, and to permit me to add to my chart the manuscript plan, which he himself took of the part of the coast of **EGYPT** comprehended between **DAMIETTA** and **ROSSETTA**; so that this extent of the shores of the **MEDITERRANEAN**, hitherto thrown on our charts, as at random, and with which it never was more important to us to be well acquainted, is that which

* *Mémoire sur le Lac Menzaleh, d'après la Reconnoissance faite en Vendémiaire, an 7.—Mémoire sur la Vallée des Lacs de Natron, et celle du Fleuve sans eau, d'après la Reconnoissance faite les 4, 5, 6, 7, et 8 Pluviôse, an 7.—PARIS, DIDOT aîné, an 8.*

is traced with the greatest exactness and precision ; thanks to the attention of a distinguished foldier, who, amid the terrible agitations of war, has found means to fix in the camp the timid Sciences, scared by the din of arms, and to join to the dazzling, but ensanguined laurels of valour, the more modest, but fruitful olive, with which they encircle the brow of those who welcome them, and whom they are fond of loading with favours*.

Travels in GREECE at first present to the mind the idea of researches respecting monuments of antiquity. The reader expects to find in them the description of those splendid edifices which constituted the glory of ancient GREECE, the drawing of some tomb, of some urn, of some antique utensil, the impression of medals, the copy of inscriptions. Observations of this nature are foreign to my book ; travellers enow have indulged themselves in them with success, and I could have done no more than repeat what had been said before me by learned antiquaries, whose knowledge, in that line, I am far from attaining. But a work which would surpass all that has been published on the subject of the history and monuments of GREECE, is that of the man of learning the most distinguished, the most versed in Greek literature, the celebrated DANSSE DE VILLOISON, if he would determine to bring to light the precious materials which he has collected on the spot, a work which would itself be a literary monument worthy of the

* General *Andréoffy* has also just published a very important work, under the title of HISTOIRE DU CANAL DU MIDI, ou CANAL DE LANGUEDOC. 1 vol. 8vo. Paris. *Buisson*, Rue Hautefeuille.

brilliant days of GREECE, and of the reputation of the author, to which, nevertheless, it could make no addition.

My most sanguine wishes will be accomplished, if my new labours succeed in acquiring the approbation of an enlightened Public. This is the object of all my ambition; well satisfied, and even completely happy if I be permitted to attain it!

*Sit meæ sedes utinam fenestra;
Sit modus lassæ maris, et viarum,
Militiæque.*

HOR. Book ii.

TRAVELS

IN

GREECE AND TURKEY.

CHAPTER I.

A cursory view of Egypt.—The Author, on his return from Upper Egypt, makes a very short stay at Alexandria.—Comparison between Egypt and Greece, between the Copts and the Greeks.—Greek women.—Paradoxes of M. de Pauw.—Approaching change in the political situation of the Greeks.—Dangers of revolutions.

I HAD just spent two years in travelling over one of the most famous countries of antiquity, that in which the arts have displayed the greatest efforts, and struggled with most advantage against time, that which they have, with astonishing profusion, covered with all the works calculated to produce and maintain fertility on a soil, whose riches are as much a conquest of human industry, as a gift of nature. EGYPT, independently of the interest and the noble curiosity inspired by the still-imposing ruins of its ancient magnificence, will always, in the eyes of the well-informed man, be a portion of the globe very important from the excellence of its soil, the salubrity of its climate, and its geographical position.

And when our age shall be for posterity a point of antiquity, history will present, as another subject of astonishment and admiration, the enterprise of a powerful and generous people, who, under the direction of a great leader, a man of genius, were desirous that EGYPT should become their new domain, and their richest and most flourishing colony: a vast and bold plan, alternately the object of praise and blame, to which were wanting, to insure its success, only circumstances more fortunate, and perhaps a few preliminary combinations, but the end of which was a certain and incalculable increase of the trade and resources of FRANCE*.

On my return from UPPER EGYPT, I arrived, for the third time, at ALEXANDRIA. The extreme circumspection which Europeans were there forced to employ in all their proceedings, no longer promised me any new researches. Accordingly I soon thought of quitting an enclosure of sands and ruins, the barren habitation of ignorance and barbarism, which the traders of EUROPE did not occupy without being a prey to continual apprehensions, and exposed to frequent dangers, as their vessels were to shipwreck in the only bad harbour that was open to them. I had stripped myself of the long and ample garments in use in the EAST, and which I had worn in the course of my travels in EGYPT, in order to resume the French uniform, in which I found myself at first very uneasy. I long regretted a dress, not so light indeed, but certainly more noble and more decent, and at the same time better calculated for preserving health, because, not compressing any part of the body, it leaves full liberty to its movements and inflexions, as well as to the circulation of the blood and humours, and maintains the suppleness and strength of the muscles and fibres.

* I have set forth the numerous advantages, the necessary result of the peaceable possession of Egypt, in my *Travels* in that country, which I published last year.

My journey, strictly speaking, terminated at ALEXANDRIA. Having failed from FRANCE on the 26th of April 1777, on board the ATALANTE frigate, which was ordered to visit all the ports of the LEVANT and of BARBARY, I was to follow the same destination; but subsequent instructions changed this destination, and occasioned me to quit the ship at ALEXANDRIA, in order to travel in EGYPT; so that, my fresh instructions not extending beyond this journey, I might, after having accomplished it, return to my country. This was my first project; but I had before me celebrated countries, which the sciences honoured, which the arts embellished, which gave birth to crowds of heroes and great men, and the history of which furnishes the most interesting part of our study, in like manner as their master-pieces are still the admiration and example of those who have preserved a taste for true beauty. The sea of GREECE is seen to spread its waves, whose expansion is retarded and opposed by an immense number of islands, on the inclined shores of EGYPT; a space rather short separates the two countries on which Antiquity prides herself; and, after having visited that which passes for the cradle of the arts and sciences, and from which the Greeks derived a part of their knowledge, I resolved to see also the country which may be called the cradle of the graces and of good taste. There, a burning climate does not, as in EGYPT, dry up a soil which ceases to produce, as soon as active industry ceases to cultivate it, and cover it with an abundant moisture. There, we see not those vast, sandy, and arid plains, those naked and heated rocks, forsaken by nature, and which man does not traverse without considerable difficulty and danger. That frightful nakedness by which habitable EGYPT will ever be circumscribed and confined, disfigures not the land of GREECE. There, the temperature is mild, the mountains are covered by forests, the atmosphere is cooled by rains, the vallies are watered by numerous streams, and the soil may be adapted to several kinds of culture.

If, from the comparison of the physical state of the two countries we pass to that of the men who inhabit them, we shall find no resemblance but in the despotism by which they were both enslaved. The Copt or the native of EGYPT, whose character partakes of the dryness and rudeness of the climate, is short and heavy; his head is big, but empty; his face is broad and flat; his complexion is fallow and dark; and his countenance is mean. His disposition is gloomy and melancholy; his treachery is the more dangerous, as it is, in a manner, more concentrated; having no taste for the arts, no flight of curiosity leads him to instruction; sedentary, because he has no vivacity in his mind, he seeks not to be acquainted with what surrounds him; lazy and slovenly, clownish and ignorant, unfeeling and superstitious, he has no longer any remembrance, nor even any trace remaining, of the greatness of his ancestors.

What a difference between this nation entirely degenerated, and that which still inhabits the beautiful countries of GREECE! Under a pure sky, in a wholesome, temperate atmosphere, impregnated with the sweetest emanations, on a soil which nature decks with flowers, and clothes with the verdure of an eternal spring, or which may be enriched with crops of every sort, or with delicious fruits, we must expect, among the men, to meet only with amenity of manners and sweetness of disposition. I am speaking of the men whose generations there succeed each other without interruption; for the ignorant and untractable usurper may, by his stupid ferocity, pollute the most happy climate, the most smiling country; and ages are required for their influence to temper, in a perceptible manner, the rudeness of his inclinations.

The man of these charming parts of GREECE is of a handsome stature; he carries his head high, his body erect, or rather inclined backward than forward; he is dignified in his carriage, easy in his manners, and nimble
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in his gait; his eyes are full of vivacity; his countenance is open, and his address agreeable and prepossessing; he is neat and elegant in his clothing; he has a taste for dress, as for every thing that is beautiful; active, industrious, and even enterprising, he is capable of executing great things; he speaks with ease, he expresses himself with warmth; he is acquainted with the language of the passions, and he likewise astonishes by his natural eloquence; he loves the arts, without daring to cultivate them, under the brazen yoke which hangs heavy on his neck; skilful and cunning in trade, he does not always conduct himself in it with that frankness which constitutes its principal basis; and if we still find in modern GREECE many of the fine qualities which do honour to the history of ancient GREECE, it cannot be denied that Superstition, the child of Ignorance and Slavery, greatly tarnishes their lustre; and we also discover in their disposition that fickleness, that pliability, that want of sincerity, in short, that artful turn of mind which borders on treachery, and of which the Greeks of antiquity have been accused*.

But this obliquity of character fortunately does not extend, or at least is very much weakened, among the women of the same countries. The Greek females are, in general, distinguished by a noble and easy shape, and a majestic carriage. Their features, traced by the hand of Beauty, reflect the warm and profound affections of Sensibility; the serenity of their countenance is that of dignity, without having its coldness or gravity; they are amiable without pretension, decent without founess, charming without affectation. If, to such brilliant qualities, we add elevation of ideas, warmth of expression, those flights of simple and ingenuous eloquence which attract and fascinate, a truly-devoted attachment

* Every one is acquainted with that famous line which paints so well the character of the Greeks:

“Timeo Danaos, ac dona ferentes.”

to persons beloved, exactness and fidelity in their duties, we shall have some notion of these privileged beings, with whom Nature, in her munificence, has embellished the earth, and who are not rare in GREECE. There it is that the genius of the artists of antiquity would still have the choice of more than one model. Mine is in my heart; and if the sketch which I trace of her is still far short of the original, if the fiery touches which are imprinted on my soul, seem to be extinguished on my picture, it is to regret, to affliction, to inquietude, to hope, to the different sensations which are blended and contending within me, that it must be imputed, rather than to the faintness of my colouring. O thoughts alternately delightful and tormenting! O recollections dear and painful!... ..But let us drop a pen glowing with the most impassioned sentiments, it would, with difficulty, find favour in the eyes of whosoever has a soul parched up; and, unfortunately, our age has afforded but too many proofs of fullen and cruel insensibility.

What I have just said on the subject of the modern Greeks, is quite contrary to what M. DE PAUW has written of them in his *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Grecs*. It would be extraordinary if such an opposition of sentiment should not be met with between the observer who reports what he has seen, and the man of science, who, buried in his closet, pretends to observe better what he does not see. Guided by a rage, by no means *philosophical*, of rejecting facts that would be in contradiction with the system which he has formed for himself, M. DE PAUW admits those only by which he can support it, at the same time accompanying them with arguments, specious indeed, but which betray the labour that they have cost, rather than the art with which they have been arranged.

After having set aside every thing that is not favourable to his opinion, after having thrown out the severest criticism on estimable authors, M. DE

PAUW

PAUW opens a free career to his imagination, and, by suspicious proofs and bold assertions, but presented as incontestable truths, he strives to destroy all received opinions, and observations the least to be doubted. By his account, expressions cannot be found to describe the abasement into which the Greeks are fallen in our days, and into which they fell through their own fault. "This nation," says he, "returned to childhood, is now no more than a vile burden to the earth, the opprobrium of their progenitors, whose tombs they tread under foot without even being acquainted with them." It is impossible to be more cruel, nor at the same time more unjust. The women too have their share in these exaggerations of ill-humour and spirit of system. If we must believe the same writer, we should in vain look for beauty in GREECE, where, however, according to him, it formerly shone but very rarely. "At present," adds he, "we should find there, in general, none but women absolutely inferior to those of the north of EUROPE, whether as to regularity of features, or freshness of complexion and elegance of form: and, in some of the countries of GREECE in particular, we should see none but women who seem to be unfavoured by nature." These are erroneous opinions, which it is not uncommon to meet with in the works of M. DE PAUW; and such outrages against a nation towards which we have contracted the habit of interest, blasphemies of this sort against beauty, are so many spots which would disfigure the most philosophical inquiries.

This amiable and interesting people of GREECE are bent under the very heavy yoke of the stern and proud Mussulman; their slavery, like that of the descendants of the ancient Egyptians, is absolute and of long standing. The Copts lived in the brutalized stupor of a debased condition. Never could they have dreamt of breaking their chains, had not the French undertaken their deliverance; and the Greeks, although possessing more energy and means, will never themselves shake off fetters, which, notwithstanding,

withstanding, are to them odious. Should an enterprising genius, the friend of glory and of his country, rise up in the midst of them, and offer to lead them to the conquest of liberty, he would find it difficult to draw round him numerous partisans. Reduced to the simple character of leader of a few insurgents, he would have to fight his own countrymen, and he would end by falling a victim to the treachery of some of them; so much does long slavery blunt energy, corrupt the qualities of the soul, and leave to the vices of weakness and abasement alone freedom of action!

But should foreign forces, sufficiently imposing to banish fears, which, in weak minds, are inseparable from the uncertainty of success, make their appearance, not with projects of invasion, but as deliverers of GREECE, insurrection against tyranny would become general; national activity would display all its resources; cohorts of courageous combatants would be formed on all sides; intelligent and active mariners would cover the sea with fast-sailing vessels, which would rapidly carry succours and troops to all the points of the islands and coasts that would become those of the whole nation; all would second and bless their deliverers. The period when one of the finest countries of the globe, that which is the richest in precious recollections, shall be snatched from Ottoman despotism, is not perhaps far distant. The existence of that vast and monstrous empire of the Turks cannot be of long duration; its incoherent parts shake, and are on the point of falling to pieces; on every side Rebellion waves her standards; the authority of the chief of the empire, disowned and insulted without, scarcely extends beyond the walls of CONSTANTINOPLE; a domination, established on ignorance, cannot resist the contact of knowledge; it will be annihilated with the superstitious barbarism to which it owes its origin; and the most cruel and most improvident tyranny will no longer leave

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any other traces than that by which the life of all tyrants is followed, the execration of posterity*.

I have just spoken of revolution, and it is not without trembling that my pen has traced this terrible word. Indeed, there is nothing but the excess of slavery by which a people are oppressed, that can, in future, justify the idea of overthrowing their government. Who would dare, in fact, to advise again those political convulsions, a thousand times more frightful and more disastrous than those with which Nature sometimes terrifies mankind? Who, without the most powerful motives, would dare to expose a nation, naturally restless and turbulent, to the shocks, to the ravages, to the ills inseparable from those great innovations in the body social? In that country, at least, we should have nothing to regret, not even the appearance of repose which there reigns, and which, in truth, is only the abjection of misfortune and the sleep of bondage. There, no violation of public faith, no infraction of the most sacred engagements, would plunge into misery and despair a crowd of unfortunate beings, whose complaints and cries have served elsewhere only to embolden impudent plunderers. There, where property is often a claim to exactions, where commerce, agriculture, and industry, are no more than titles which expose

* Here too *M. de Pauw* and I are in manifest contradiction. He blames the elegant author of the *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, for having urged other nations to the emancipation of the Greeks, for having engraved, on the frontispiece of his book, that signal of vengeance against tyrants, *exoriare aliquis*. He imputes to *M. de Choiseul-Gouffier* the greatest paradoxes; and, supporting himself by the testimony of some Greek monks, who, dreaming only of theology, have assured him that if their countrymen returned to liberty, the first use that they would make of it would consist in undertaking a war of religion, he affirms that the idea of deliverance, impolitical in his eyes, can enter into the heads of none but those who are unacquainted with the density of the darkness in which the mind of the modern Greeks is enveloped.—See the *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Grecs*.

to excesses and persecutions, property and the arts cannot but be strengthened and extended by expelling the barbarians who are their scourge; while in the most civilized countries of EUROPE, become the prey of a horde of ambitious triflers, every thing has been overthrown, confounded, and swallowed up.

CHAPTER II.

Flourishing state of the French trade in the Levant, during the war of 1778.—Its total ruin, which has involved that of Marfeilles.—Causes of these misfortunes.—Reflections on this subject.—Order of the King and Firman of the Grand Signior transmitted to the Author.—The authority of the Porte null in Egypt.—Writing of the Turks; offices of their ministers; manner in which business is conducted there; their writers; their paper.—Translation of the Firman.—Departure from Alexandria.—Quails.—Birds.

WAR, the minister of death and desolation, had been kindled in EUROPE during my travels in AFRICA. Rival governments had armed the one against the other two nations calculated for mutual esteem. The rupture between FRANCE and ENGLAND had, by some months, preceded my return to ALEXANDRIA; but no hostility was exercised in the seas of the LEVANT; the French there continued their trade as in the midst of peace. A single frigate from TOULON was sufficient for escorting thither in safety a convoy of sixty or eighty sail, and for protecting them against the attacks of any of the enemy's privateers, which scarcely ventured to cruise near the coast of ITALY, in the seas of CORSICA and SARDINIA, or in the canal of MALTA, but seldom ever durst enter the sea that washes the coasts and islands of TURKEY. A number of vessels, which had sailed from the ports of PROVENCE, and were intended to be supported for three years at the expense of the Turks, whose merchandize they shipped, and whose money they brought back, at the same time that they formed a multitude of sailors, had not relaxed their active and useful carrying-trade.

trade. In short, if the rage for mutual destruction was spread on some points of the ocean, the blood of men stained not the waters of the most eastern part of the MEDITERRANEAN; and the French flag was flying there as in its own domain.

What unfortunate changes have happened to interrupt the course of so prosperous a commerce? What fatal influence has converted a situation so flourishing, and which its duration seemed to render unchangeable, into a series of humiliations, into the total ruin of the trade of the LEVANT? By what fatality has a nation, the old and faithful friend of FRANCE, which ceased not to surround her with confidence, with privileges, with prerogatives, appeared suddenly in the ranks of her enemies? Its ports, where the French possessed a preponderance almost exclusive, are shut against them; the *caravane** is annihilated, and the national flag is no longer acknowledged in the seas of which it enjoyed the empire.

And thou, whose origin goes back to the brilliant ages of GREECE, brilliant colony of the Phocæans, to whom the Gauls were indebted for a knowledge of the fine arts; thou, who, by thy schools and the urbanity of thy inhabitants, wast for a long time the rival of ATHENS; thou, who gavest birth to the most ancient of known travellers, to PYTHEAS, a man of letters and a celebrated astronomer, who carried towards the North his taste for observation, before the age of ALEXANDER†; thou, whom great men and great exploits rendered illustrious; thou, in short, whom the most flourishing trade rendered, not long since, queen of

* Thus was called the carrying-trade which the French vessels exercised in the seas of the LEVANT, at the expense of the Turks, and which was a source of riches for commerce, and of prosperity for the marine. These vessels were named *navires-caravanciers*.

† That is to say, before the year 327.

the MEDITERRANEAN, MARSEILLES! what is become of thy lustre? Thy riches, thy industrious activity, thy splendour, all has disappeared: to peaceful commercial speculations, to useful transactions of barter have succeeded the noisy shock of the passions, the fury of discord, the firebrands of civil war; thy establishments, thy work-shops, are forsaken or annihilated, and their ruin has involved that of the manufactories of LANGUEDOC, which furnished woollen cloths for the consumption of the Orientals; thy numberless ships, with which the MEDITERRANEAN was covered, unmastcd and unrigged, and crowded into a port half choked up, are decaying in inaction; thy quays, formerly so full of bustle, so tumultuous from the continual conveyance of the riches of the two Worlds, are deserted; grass clothes the pavement of thy streets, in which was seen a crowd of busy and laborious men; desolation reigns within thy walls, still tinged with the blood of several of thy inhabitants; and widows in tears, children in despair, recall in vain, by their sighs and their sobs, husbands and parents fallen under the axe of the executioner, or the poniard of the assassin.

The source of so many losses and calamities proceeds from general disorganization, which, in a very short space of time, effected in FRANCE the dissolution of the body social, and converted the finest empire of the universe into an ensanguined theatre of disorders, misery, and confusion. Since men have been found wicked enough, audacious enough, to accumulate ruins on a soil where every thing announced prosperity, order, and splendour; and to replace scenes the most magnificent and the most agreeable by images the most terrible and most afflicting, why should we not have the courage to reproach them with their crimes? Men for ever detestable, who had only the rage and the transports of ambition without having its genius; who have not blushed to assume a power, I will not say too much above your capacity, you had none but
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that of impudence, yet which, you well knew, was to be in your hands only the power of doing mischief, what account will you give of the flourishing state in which you found FRANCE, and of the situation, truly deplorable, in which you have left her? What have you privately done with those riches, with those numerous advantages which we derived from our LEVANT trade? Under your frightful domination calamities alone have prospered; every thing that was good, respectable, or useful, has been swallowed up. The policy of governments may change, and indeed changes but too frequently; but moral ideas are immutable and eternal; it is the forgetfulness of them, or rather their absence from your heart that has caused you to plunge so rapidly into an abyss of crimes, and errors, whence, by a most impetuous and impure overflow, you inundated FRANCE and the neighbouring countries, with violations of principles and rights the most sacred, with excesses against humanity, with false combinations, with inconsiderate enterprises, with rapine, outrages, and disorders. Your tyranny, the most heavy that ever oppressed mankind, and at the same time the most insulting, because you had established it on a derivative appearance of liberty, had enchained the most generous spirits; and universal torpor had deprived genius of all spring, and virtue, of all energy. What time will it not require to repair your crimes? And we shall not even be revenged by remorse; of that you are not susceptible.

A situation so deplorable would be hopeless in every other country except FRANCE; but, to the picture of her misfortunes, which we must strive to forget, let us substitute the consoling description of her resources: they are immense; and they will still increase under the shade of the fructifying olive of peace. O Peace! may thy sacred name be found in every mouth as in every heart! Daughter of Heaven! Prosperity, virtue, pure joy, industrious activity, every blessing accompanies thee;

thee; mayst thou, resplendent with this train of felicity, diffuse thy favours and bounties over the desolated land, which has been but too long moistened by the blood of men! Then, let us not doubt it, under a wife and enlightened government, strong, but just, our country emerging from her long abjection, shall soon recover her brilliant and ancient advantages; we shall see every part of public economy ameliorated, and the trade of the LEVANT, more flourishing than ever, will again pour its treasures into our beautiful southern departments.

The advantages which I had enjoyed in my journey in EGYPT, were almost the same with respect to the new travels that I was going to undertake. In fact, although the special mission, with which I had been charged, was, as I have said in the preceding chapter, nearly accomplished on my leaving EGYPT, I was still the bearer of an order from the king which authorized me to prolong my travels, and extend my researches and observations into all the countries which I should think likely to inspire any interest; and it was enjoined to all the governors, intendants, and other agents of government in foreign parts, to protect and assist me with their means and credit; so that I ceased not to be considered as an envoy of the French government, travelling by order of the king.

On the other hand, the French ambassador at CONSTANTINOPLE had been charged by our ministry to procure me an order from the Grand Signior, which should authorize me to visit his vast domains. This *firman*, thus are called the ordinances of the PORTE, had reached me at CAIRO; and, indeed, it would there have been a very bad recommendation. The beys had rendered themselves independent, or nearly so, of the Turkish Emperor. The pacha, whom he maintained there, was no

more than a phantom of authority that the chiefs of the Mamalûks caused to disappear or be changed at their pleasure. The brave and audacious MURAD already reigned in CAIRO as absolute master; the will of that stern tyrant was there the sole law, and the officer that the Sultan sent thither, under the derisive title of governor, lived there without power as without influence, and had no other resource for maintaining himself in so precarious a situation, than those of narrow and low minds, of fomenting dissensions between the beys, and of charging Discord with a task which he would not have dared to undertake himself; that is, of stopping the career of a violent and usurping ambition.

The Turks were despised at the court of these foreigners, who, from the condition of slaves, passed to the absolute government of EGYPT; less brisk in their movements, more grave in their gait, less skilful in managing a horse, they were an object of pleasantry and derision in the eyes of the young and spruce Mamalûks, of which the families of the princes, not long ago their equals, and since their masters, were composed. Accordingly these same despots had no consideration for the emperor of TURKEY, whom they regarded rather as an enemy importunate through a remnant of pretensions, than as their sovereign. To avail myself with MURAD Bey of any documents emanated from the government of CONSTANTINOPLE, would have been to call in question his power, kindle his indignation and his anger, and expose myself to the sudden effects of his passion*.

* In my work respecting *Egypt*, I have drawn the portrait of *Murad*, the only bey who found means to preserve his authority so long; a tyrant uneducated and despotic, but become celebrated by the honour which he has had of fighting the French, and to whom we cannot deny much bravery, some military talents, and a few qualities of mind, which evince its elevation, such as great liberality, with which he has contrived to attach to himself, and preserve a number of partisans.

It was therefore, on my part, a necessary act of prudence to keep secret the document which insured me the protection of the Grand Signior; it would not have failed to involve me in some difficulty, and to cost me some exaction. I obtained from MURAD Bey himself recommendations more safe and more proper.

But, if this firman had been useless to me in EGYPT, it became of great service to me in the new travels that I purposed to undertake. Although the *lands and seas of Egypt* only were mentioned in it, this sign of protection was not, on that account, of less advantage to me in TURKEY; it procured me regard and attention on the part of the governors and private commandants. I never unrolled it in vain: at the sight of it, the haughty pacha, the stern aga, and all those subaltern tyrants who rend, rather than govern, the Ottoman empire, became tractable and obliging; they lifted it to their forehead in token of respect, and I seldom failed to obtain from them what I wished. In the eyes of the multitude, I appeared an important personage; since their sovereign condescended to concern himself about me; and by saving me from some unpleasant incidents and embarrassments, which I should not have avoided without this sort of talisman of despotism, they considered me as entitled to their respect and consideration.

Though the oriental languages are beginning to make some progress among us, and though many persons are acquainted with Turkish writing, I have thought that people, in general, would not be displeased to see here the form of the ordinances issued by the Ottoman government, and I have caused my firman to be engraved. (*See Plate II.*) The Turks, as is well known, like the Arabs, write from right to left; they distinguish ten sorts of characters in their writing; and they call *divouani* those which are employed in the official papers of the divan.

The Turks write but little. The offices of their ministers are not filled with a crowd of clerks, mutually causing each other restraint and distraction, nor encumbered by heaps of papers, which no one reads. Business is there transacted with the greatest simplicity; correspondence with men in office is very rare, and, with the exception of the emphatical amplifications of oriental etiquette, it is freed from useless and dull prolixity. When a person has any thing to ask of the great, he prefers speaking to writing, because they listen and answer otherwise than by insignificant and common phrases, which, being addressed to every body, suit no one, and evince as much the fatigue and sometimes the indifference of him who pronounces them, as the folly of him who gives credit to them; because, in short, these same men in power, being secure from importunities and solicitations, are of easy access.

On the other hand, where the generality of the inhabitants scarcely either trouble themselves, or care to trouble themselves, about public affairs, ambition is confined within a very narrow circle, and concentrated among very few persons. Accordingly the demands for employments are extremely rare; and, with the exception of some petitions presented in the view of obtaining reparation for exactions or acts of injustice too common in the delegates of the PORTE, there are not delivered into its offices that prodigious quantity of memorials, petitions, and remonstrances, which ambitious and bustling intrigue multiplies on such slight grounds and to so little purpose among us, and which, commonly, are calculated only to occasion a loss of time to those who draw them up, as well as to those who answer them.

The oriental writers do not place themselves near a table. They are seated on a cushion, with their legs crossed and turned in under their garments. They write on their knees, and they almost always have the
long

long pipe in their mouth. The paper which they employ comes from EUROPE; but it is smoothed and glazed in TURKEY, in order that the reed pen, of which they make use, may glide with greater facility. My firman is written on a large sheet of this glazed paper; it is twenty-nine inches in depth, by twenty in width*. At the top is the cypher of the Sultan ABDLOUL ACHMET; at the bottom, the signature of the *reis effendi*, or minister for foreign affairs; and on the folds, different marks necessary to authenticate papers of this kind. I give, as a note, the translation of it; for this I am indebted to JAUBERT, a young and learned professor of oriental languages in PARIS. It must be observed that, for fear of giving umbrage to the Turks, always uneasy respecting the intentions of travellers who visit their country, I was presented to the divan as a trader. Thus it was that in EGYPT the protection of the beys of CAIRO and of the Arabic princes was granted to me as to a physician; and this imaginary ægis, founded on the vulgar credulity of barbarous men, as much as on their wish to prolong their own existence, was of no small service to me, and preserved me from a multitude of embarrassments and dangers†.

The

* The *Paris* foot is equal to 12.789 English inches.

† TRANSLATION OF THE FIRMAN.

(*Here is the Sultan's cypher.*)

Most just, most noble, most great, most glorious, most respectable governor, who knows how to manage the most important affairs of this world, with intelligence and discernment, and whose superior solicitude extends with wisdom and benignity over the poor of the state; pillar of the glorious empire, illustrious governor of *Egypt*, our fortunate vizir *Mohammed* pacha: may God increase his glory!

Most just of the cadis of *Ismaelism*, treasure of virtues and truths, deeply read in the laws and in religion, heir of the science of the prophets and apostles, specially loaded with the favours of the most high, learned cadi of *Cairo* in *Egypt*, may God increase his virtues!

Happy successors of the cadis and princes, abundant mines of nobleness and virtues, who, in our fortunate name, govern the empire of the lands and seas of *Egypt*, may God increase their merits!

The sea of the LEVANT being, as I have said, absolutely free, notwithstanding the war between the principal maritime powers of EUROPE, I had no precaution to take in the short voyage which I had to perform; and as I had, besides, no other object, but that of visiting some of the countries of GREECE and of TURKEY, it was of little consequence to me, whether I began my excursions by one place or by another. I therefore availed myself of the first vessel that was to sail from the harbour of ALEXANDRIA; and, after having taken leave of my fellow-travellers

Lieutenants, leaders of troops, janizaries, and other commandants, may God increase their power, and raise them in dignity!

When this noble firman shall have reached you, know that:

The ambassador and the consuls of the King of *France*, our powerful friend, the support of the great of this world, the model of christian princes (may his end be happy!) having caused to be represented to us that it would be expedient to grant to the merchants who wish to travel in the states (well-guarded) of our glorious empire, supreme orders for them to be therein treated with safety and protection, conformably to the treaties:

And a Frenchman, named *Sonnini*, who has the intention of repairing to *Cairo* in *Egypt*, having made known to us that he begs us to cause to be delivered an order issued by our sublime *Porte* to all those who exercise our authority over the lands or over the seas of *Egypt*, to the end that he may reside there, or travel there freely, without fear or hindrance whatever:

And being desirous that, agreeably to our intentions and our express recommendations, he should be protected by our sovereign orders, stamped with our noble seal,

We direct that:

When this order, issued by our sublime *Porte*, shall have reached you, the aforesaid Frenchman may freely travel over the lands and seas above-mentioned, dependent on our glorious empire; that he may at pleasure enter them, leave them, or reside in them, conforming himself in all things to our sovereign orders, and that there shall be every where granted to him aid, succour, and protection.

And to the end that the contents of these orders may leave you no doubt, we have graced them with our noble and eminent signature, to which you will give credit; we recommend it to you. Understand it thus.

Given in the beginning of Sefier, in the year of the hegira 1192 (February 1778, O. S.)

At CONSTANTINOPLE the well-guarded.

(Translated by Citizen JAUBERT, Turkish professor in the special school of Oriental languages, near the national library, fifth interpreter to the government.)

in EGYPT, I embarked on board a Provençal polacre*, a *caravaneur*, laden with productions of EGYPT and ARABIA, on account of some Turkish merchants of the Island of CANDIA.

We fet sail on the 17th of October, 1778, at seven o'clock in the morning, with a pleasant breeze at east; it soon carried us out of sight of the hillocks, and of the famous pillar, which serve as land-marks on making ALEXANDRIA.

The war caused so little uneasiness in these seas, that the polacre, on board of which I was, carried no artillery; and, with the exception of my arms, there was not a single piece on board.

In the small quantity of provisions which I had shipped, the most abundant sort consisted of quails, taken alive in the environs of ALEXANDRIA. The extraordinary number of these birds which arrive in autumn on the coast of EGYPT, renders them, at that period, one of the most common dishes. When, in our fields, we have seen quails with short wings and tail, a round body, little calculated for cleaving the air, when we have seen them, I say, rise heavily, and with difficulty take a low flight of short duration, we are surprised to meet with them again on shores so distant, subject, like other birds of passage, to regular migrations;

* A polacre is a small vessel with three masts, which are pole-masts, that is, consisting of a single stick, without tops or cross-trees, so that the top-gallant-sails and topsails lower on the lower yard: which, in French, is called *amener en paquet* (lowering all together). This mode of rigging is advantageous, inasmuch as, in case of being caught in a squall, the sails can be lowered all at once; but, indeed, it suits none but vessels of no great burden, for the masts of a large ship cannot be made of sufficient strength if they were formed only of a single stick. Polacres are very much in use in the navigation of the Mediterranean Sea, where fast-sailing vessels of a small draught of water are more necessary than elsewhere, and where they have frequently to experience short, but sudden and heavy squalls.

weaker

weaker than those, quails also venture to make long journies: with an unsteady flight, they skim the surface of the waters, avail themselves of every point of repose afforded them by a sea intersected by scattered lands, and ploughed by numbers of vessels, and in this manner reach, from island to island and from vessel to vessel, the shore of EGYPT. But the flocks of these feeble and innocent travellers are far from arriving entire; an impetuous wind plunges them into the waves; the shelter and rest which they seek with eagerness on the islands and on board ships, to them become occasions of destruction. Man is every where to devour them; and when, after so many dangers and fatigues, they alight on a land on which they arrive from such a distance to seek a mild temperature that our climates deny them, when at length folding their wings, which they would no longer have strength to extend for some time, they are preparing to spread themselves over fertile plains, and there enjoy, till the ensuing spring, the warmth of the atmosphere and abundance of food, unfeeling and cruel man again makes his appearance, and, taking advantage of their state of debility, which prevents them from running and flying, envelops them in nets and shuts them up without pity in cages, in order that they may be afterwards abandoned to his voracity. These cages, made in EGYPT, are of wicker; the top is of canvas, in order that the quails may not split their head by raising themselves vertically and with vivacity: a barbarous precaution, when we are waiting till it is convenient to put to death with our own hands innocent animals.

Other birds had freely taken up their quarters on our floating habitation, and animated its dry and insipid monotony. Some sparrows picked up on the deck the small fragments of our meals; while the frisky wagtail*, of a

* *Lavandière*. BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Ois. et planche enluminée, No. 642. *Motacilla alba*. LINN.—*Ang.* White wagtail.

familiarity more amiable, because it bespoke nothing impudent, by a continuance of skips and short and quick flights, rid us of a part of the insects by which we were incommoded. It seemed that these little winged navigators would have wished to seek with us a more grateful foil, plains more agreeable than the melancholy and arid environs of ALEXANDRIA, and that they would have manifested their gratitude for the undisturbed hospitality which they enjoyed among us.

But the very day after our departure, the wind having shifted to the west, and threatening a storm, the sort of open aviary which we had seen formed, disappeared. Our feathered guests, doubtless, foreseeing a violent agitation in the atmosphere, took leave of us, and, favoured by the wind, they directed their flight towards the coast of SYRIA, or the Isle of CYPRUS: we were, in fact, at no great distance from that island, the most eastern and one of the finest in the MEDITERRANEAN.

CHAPTER III.

Position of the Island of Cyprus.—Its names.—Henné.—Ruins of the Island of Cyprus.—Its mines.—Gold.—Copper.—Vitriol.—Iron.—Crystal.—Precious stones.—Jasper.—Asbestos.—Talc.—Plaster.—Ochre.—Marine salt.—Agriculture.—Olive-trees.—Mulberry-trees.—Carob-trees.—Cotton.—Sugar-cane.—Coffee-tree.—Gardens.—Various species of corn.—Grasshoppers.—Madder.—Coloquintida.—Ladanum.—Soda.—Wood.—Wool.—Wine.—Turkey leather.—Cotton.—Manufactures.—Import-trade.

PLACED in the vast gulf which terminates the MEDITERRANEAN to the east, the Island of CYPRUS seems intended to secure the command of that sea*. Towards the north, and at no considerable distance, are the winding coasts of CARAMANIA, formerly CILICIA; those of EGYPT, more remote, face it to the south, and the shores of SYRIA, on which the MEDITERRANEAN stops, lies not far from it to the west†; the ancients even thought that it had made a part of that country, and that one of those violent commotions of the globe, which we find at very distant periods in

* It is necessary to recall to mind here what I have announced in my Introduction. During travels, which consisted only of a series of excursions on lines of no great length, and crossing each other incessantly, it would be to expose myself to tiresome repetitions to adhere scrupulously to the itinerary; I therefore describe objects as they present themselves, and in the order which they occupy on the Chart, for the purpose of diffusing greater perspicuity in the narration, and of not compelling the reader to tread back his steps repeatedly, as I frequently did myself.

† The Island of Cyprus is situated in latitude 35° north, and longitude 33° east from the meridian of Greenwich.

the history of ages, had thence detached it, as SICILY from ITALY, and several other islands from different parts of the continent.

No place in the world has, perhaps, received more names than this island. PLINY gives an enumeration of them, and he does not quote them all*. They have exercised, with more or less success, the fluctuating art of etymologists. It is not, for example, a very happy conjecture to have ascribed the derivation of the name of *CERASTIS* or *CERASTIA*, *Horn Island*, to the island having been formerly inhabited by horned men, who have never existed any where; while it was more natural to imagine that this denomination arose from the multitude of narrow capes or points by which its coasts are surrounded, and which bear some resemblance to long horns projecting into the sea.

The ancient Greeks were more generally acquainted with the Island of CYPRUS by the name of *KUPROS*; and that of *KUPRIS*, which they gave to VENUS, indicated that the worship of that goddess had come to them from this place. Etymologists are not agreed as to the origin of this word *KUPROS*. Some affirm that it is the name of a hero; but this hero is unknown in the annals of antiquity. Some are of opinion that the abundance and the beauty of the copper which this land contains in its bosom, has occasioned to be given to it the name of a metal, which, being found formerly in metallic masses, and less difficult to melt than iron, was employed, long before, for fabricating weapons and implements of agriculture†. Others, in short, discover the origin of *KUPROS* in the name of a shrub,

* Hist. Nat. lib. v. cap. 31.

† *Histoire Naturelle des Minéraux*, par BUFFON, article *cuivre*. Vol. 2. page 224. SONNINI's edition.

celebrated by the ancients, much in use still among the modern Orientals, and in which the Island of CYPRUS carried on a considerable traffic.

This tall shrub, which the Hebrews called *kopher*, and the Greeks *kupros*, is the *henné*, or *hanna*, of the Arabs, and the *kanna* of the Turks*. It embellishes and perfumes with its blossoms the gardens of the Island of CYPRUS, like those of LOWER EGYPT. Its flowers, whose tender and delicate shades have so much analogy to the soft and animated tints of beauty, form, as heretofore, its most usual and most esteemed bouquet. The women still delight to adorn themselves with it, and place it in their bosom†; the powder of its leaves, dried, also serves them to dye with a durable bright orange colour all their nails, as well as the palm of their hands and the sole of their feet. This is a general custom in TURKEY, and in several other countries of the EAST; it originates, according to every appearance, from the astringent quality of the henné, calculated for checking on those parts of the body the perspiration more copious, and at the same time more inconvenient and more disagreeable than elsewhere, in these hot climates. It is not easy to account in like manner for the practice of also colouring the nails, on which a solid coat, of a reddish dye, does not replace with advantage the pale rose colour that is natural to them. It is, perhaps, to make the extremity of the fingers match with the under part of the hands and feet, which a bright and deep tint would throw out in too abrupt a manner, did not some surrounding parts soften the tone by partaking of it; unless we prefer saying that the women of all countries have most frequently spoiled the gifts which they have received from

* *Larsonia inermis*, foliis subsessilibus ovatis, utrinque acutis. LINN. Syst. Nat. octrandr. monogyn. I have given, in the greatest detail, the history, description, and figure of this charming shrub, in my *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, vol. i. page 292, and following.

† *Solomon's Song*, chap. i. v. 13 and 14.

Nature, even by the pains that they have taken to preserve or improve them. Beauty is a delicate flower, whose lustre is transient; relentless time undermines and destroys it; and to endeavour, by means foreign to Nature, to avoid or delay an end which Love laments, but for which the qualities of the heart and the charms of the mind console and indemnify, is, on the contrary, to hasten it. Who ever thought of loading flowers with the coarse mixture of our colours? And what pencil would dare to add any tint to the carnation of the rose, the velvet down of the amaranthus, or the pale gold of the clusters of the henné?

Of all the ancient names of the Island of CYPRUS, that which we love to recall to mind, although it forms a strange contrast with its present situation, is *MACARIA*, the *Fortunate Island*. For this name it was indebted to the fertility of its soil, the mildness of its climate, the inexpressible beauty of its plains, and the richness of its productions. The imagination of the poets lent new charms to this profusion of the gifts of Nature; they made it the cradle of the mother of the Loves; they consecrated this agreeable idea, by the name of *CYTHEREA*, and embellished it with all the charms of the most delightful descriptions, with graceful scenes of tenderness and voluptuous enjoyment.

Over this theatre, in former times consecrated to happiness, to the arts, and to pleasure, at this day reign barbarians, who have transformed it into an abode of destruction and slavery. Superb edifices, elegant temples, where the most beautiful, as well as the most amiable of divinities was adored on altars surrounded by the sweetest and most voluptuous birds, living emblems of love and fidelity, now cover and sadden, with their scattered remains, places of which they constituted the ornament and glory; and the Turks consume even the very ruins, which they still mutilate, in order to employ the fragments for common and profane purposes. Here, where the Graces reigned, at this day commands an old *mosalem* or

governor, who scares them. Under a destructive government, agriculture has ceased to enrich with her treasures beautiful plains; and the splendour of an island, formerly *fortunate*, has vanished.

The riches which it contains in its bosom are more deeply buried by despotism than by the earth with which they are covered. All boring, all search after mines, is strictly prohibited; and copper, formerly so abundant in the island, that the ancients likewise distinguished it by the epithet of *ÆROSA*, *Copper Island*, remains useless in the bowels of the mountains that contain it, as well as zinc, tin, iron, and other minerals which rendered it famous.

Should the Island of *CYPRUS* one day pass from this state of oppression to a political situation more mild and more favourable to its commerce and industry, we shall then search after all these mineral riches, and the working of them will powerfully contribute to revive the ancient splendour of the country in which they are contained; and as changes, so desirable, are, perhaps, not very remote, or at least I love to indulge the hope, it will not be useless to enter here into a few details respecting the nature of these subterranean treasures.

Gold, the end and motive of almost all human actions, and which corruption, ever-increasing, will long render the object of the warmest wishes and ardent wants of the greater number, was, as I have said, found in mines in the Island of *CYPRUS*; but they have been for ages abandoned, and tradition can scarcely assign the places where they were found. We must not take in a literal sense, nor above all refer to our age, a passage of *DAPPER*, who, in his description of the islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, page 52, asserts that there is in the middle of the island, near the town of *NICOSIA*, as well as in the environs of *CHRUSOCCO*, mines of gold, where workmen are almost continually employed.

These

These indications, which DAPPER published in 1703, are extracted from another description of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, printed in 1610, the author of which, THOMAS PORCACHI, had taken them from the ancient writers. Not that, in fact, the gold mines were not in the environs of CHRUSOCCO, a village near the gulf of that name, which occupies the place of ACAMANTIS, an ancient town, one of the most considerable of the island; some were known too in the vicinity of TAMASSUS, where stands the modern FAMAGUSTA, and at the foot of Mount OLYMPUS, in a district celebrated for its wines; but the traces of ancient works have there disappeared, and the veins of a precious metal wait, in order to be discovered and followed anew, the return of a protecting government, which regards not as crimes the strenuous efforts of industry towards useful speculations, and to which are attached public prosperity and the affluence of individuals.

But searching, which would attain with still greater certainty these two objects, that are the constant aim of every government anxious to preserve the esteem of nations and its own existence, would be that which would tend to recover the copper mines, formerly so abundant and so renowned. It is particularly in the territory occupied by a famous city of antiquity, AMATHUS, the site of which is at present occupied by the ancient LIMASSOL, that the researches ought to be directed; it is in this district, where those metals abound*, that we should again discover that beautiful primitive copper, which Nature herself has purified, and elaborated in large masses, in order to deliver it quite prepared to human industry, and which no longer exists in the exhausted mines of the Old Continent. The copper of CYPRUS was, in ancient times, the finest in the world,

* *Gravidamque Amathunta metallis*, has OVID said in his *Metamorphoses*.

and its rich and primordial mines furnished the first blocks of that metal, which were brought into use. It was principally fought for the purpose of composing that famous Corinthian brass, a precious mixture of copper, gold, and silver, the proportions of which are unknown to us, and which was in great esteem among the Greeks.

The species of natural vitriol, the blue or azure vitriol, which still retains the name of *CYPRUS vitriol*, was found in abundance in the copper mines of which I have just spoken. The ancient TAMASSUS furnished a great quantity of it; but the best was drawn from the district of CHRUSOCCO, the vitriol mines of which were still worked towards the end of the seventeenth century.

The iron mines lie scattered, and in a quantity sufficiently large to supply the wants of the Cypriots and the trade of the neighbouring countries.

In the rocks is also found a very fine rock-crystal, which is called the *BAFFA diamond*, because it is procured from the environs of BAFFA, a barbarous word, which has taken the place of that of PAPHOS. The mountains in the vicinity of Cape CROMACHITI and of Cape ALEXANDRETTA likewise contain some.

The bowels of the high mountains contain other riches less important than metallic mines, because they are useful to luxury alone. These are emeralds, amethysts, peridots, opals, &c. The Scythian jasper was reputed the best among the ancients; next came the Cyprian, and lastly, the Egyptian. The river PEDICUS, which takes its source in the mountains at no great distance from NICOSIA, rolls down, with its limpid waters, fragments of very fine red jasper.

Asbestos,

Asbestos, or the incombustible flax of the ancients, is still as plentiful as it was formerly; the quarry which furnishes it is in the mountain of ACAMANTIS, near Cape CHROMACHITI.

Talc is common, especially near LARNICA, where it is employed for white-washing houses; and there are numerous quarries of plaster. Those of marble afford it in abundance for building. But at present there are scarcely worked any of those, which yield none but a common white marble, of little consistence.

Of all the treasures which the earth conceals, the Turk, who knows only how to desolate it, allows not the unfortunate islanders any trade but in yellow ochre, umber, and *terre verte*, substances common in CYPRUS, and which are employed in coarse painting.

To the mineral substances, the exportation of which is still permitted, we must add marine salt, which, under the domination of the princes of EUROPE, was the source of considerable revenues. The great lake, or salt-marsh, in which it is formed, near the hamlet of the Salterns, was, in former times, three leagues in circumference; but the exportation of salt having successively diminished, the lake has been partly drained and cultivated; so that the sea and rain-waters are scarcely any longer collected there but on a space of a league in circuit. The heat of a burning sun accelerates the evaporation of these waters, and leaves exposed a thick crust of salt, which is gathered in the month of September, that is, before the rainy season, and is then heaped up in pyramids. These heaps of salt, in the end, acquire consistence and harden in the air; they even resist the winter rains, and, in the spring, are loaded on board small vessels, which convey them to the neighbouring coasts. The government farms out

out these natural falterns for a year only; and, agreeably to the plan of discouragement which it has marked out for itself, it clogs with a thousand shackles the extraction and the sale. Accordingly there exists no proportion between what the falterns produced formerly and what they yield at the present day: a few of the country barks suffice for the conveyance of the quantity which enters into the export-trade; whereas the Venetians annually formed of it the cargo of seventy large ships. If the choked-up canals, which form the communication between the lake and the sea, were re-established, the water would cover the same extent of ground that it occupied before, and the lake of the falterns would again become one of the most important branches of the trade and revenues of the island.

What the bowels of the earth contain in riches, is not more than what its surface may yield. The presents of agriculture are not here less numerous nor less brilliant than the less valuable treasures of mineralogy; but both are equally a prey to the brutal combinations of ignorance and barbarism. The produce of a languishing culture affords the remembrance and the measure of the fertility of which a soil favoured by nature is susceptible, when the heavy and burning hand of tyranny does not succeed in drying it up.

Olive-trees are much less common here than in past times. Their fruits no longer furnish sufficient oil for the supply of the inhabitants, and what remains of them seems to exist only to attest that olive-oil formed in **CYPRUS** a very considerable branch of commerce. Immense reservoirs, in the form of cisterns, and coated with an impenetrable cement, still subsist in the environs of **LARNICA**. Oil was preserved in these, and, to fill them, a prodigious quantity was required. The soil is so favourable to
olive-

olive-trees, that some are seen here of such a size that two men, with outstretched arms, would find it difficult to span their circumference. These fine trees, which, in some places, are planted with order and symmetry, are a proof of the antiquity of a culture which cannot be too much encouraged in climates that are suitable to it, as well on account of the great consumption which domestic economy and the arts make of olive-oil, as of the losses which the severe winters of these latter years have occasioned in our plantations.

Mulberry-trees still form small woods in certain quarters of the island; but their culture is abandoned in several, although it is the most easy of all, since it requires only to conduct water to the foot of each tree, in order to cool it during the burning heats of the summer. Here the bad custom obtains of lopping off the branches of these trees for the purpose of giving their leaves to the silk-worm, the rearing of which is attended with fewer inconveniences than elsewhere, under a sky which, in the season of gathering them, experiences no variations. The silk-trade, although less flourishing than it was before the invasion of the Turks, is, nevertheless, still of some importance. It is at FAMAGUSTA that the market of this commodity is held, and there, are annually sold about twenty thousand bales, of three hundred pounds each. In this quantity is white silk, gold yellow, sulphur yellow, and lastly orange-coloured. The floss is likewise thrown into trade, and, like the silk itself, it is dispatched to the ports of TURKEY and EUROPE.

A tree less valuable, but which notwithstanding is of good produce, covers with its shade several districts, and bears fruits which furnish a particular trade: this is the carob or ST. JOHN'S bread tree, common also in other countries whose temperature is mild, such as SPAIN, the

fourth of FRANCE, ITALY, and particularly the kingdom of NAPLES. In the ports of CYPRUS, vessels load the long, thick pods which this tree produces, and carry them to SYRIA and ALEXANDRIA. In the latter port, I have seen several vessels arrive, whose cargo consisted solely of this species of fruit; whence an idea may be formed of the quantity consumed of it by the inhabitants of EGYPT. They eat the succulent pulp which the pods contain, with hard and flat seeds; with them, it likewise supplies the place of sugar and honey, and they employ it in preserving other fruits. This pulp has the taste of that of cassia, and the honied, but insipid and slightly nauseous flavour of manna. The environs of LIMASSOL are planted with a great quantity of carob-trees, and it is more particularly in this harbour that the cargoes of their pods are shipped.

This fruit, known under the name of ST. JOHN'S bread, and which the Greeks call *keraka*, bad as it is, is not, on that account, less an article of food for the people of EGYPT and BARBARY, where the tree itself is not unknown. The Arabs call it *karoub* or *karnoub*. In EUROPE, in places where it is at a low price, the poor likewise live on it. It is also given as food to mules and cattle, which the use of it fattens. Lastly, the wood of the carob-tree being very hard, and consequently proper to be used in different works, we cannot but regret that this serviceable tree, by not thriving in our more northern regions, should not there add to the resources of the arts and of rural economy.

In the time of the ancient Romans, the carob-tree was already very plentiful in ITALY. The fruit, which was called *filiqua*, served as a weight; it required six pods to make a scruple; and as the pound was composed of two hundred and eighty-eight scruples, it also required one thousand
seven.

seven hundred and eighty-eight pods to make its weight*. It may easily be conceived that this manner of weighing, which could serve only for coarse articles of little value, was not likely to be very exact.

Most of the plains, of which cotton constituted the richness, still preserve some traces of that culture; but it is there no more than a feeble image of what it was formerly. The whole island now affords to commerce but about three thousand bales of cotton; whereas, under the government of the Venetians, the annual quantity of these bales amounted to thirty thousand†. CYPRUS cotton is the most esteemed, as the finest of all the LEVANT; it is sold too at a higher price. It is not so fine in the most southern islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; that of SMYRNA is still inferior. In short, the cotton produced in the environs of SALONICA is yet worse than that of SMYRNA; so that the more we advance towards the north, the more this article, so valuable in manufactures, loses in quality.

It would therefore be a useless attempt, and prejudicial even to the interests of the cultivator, to endeavour to introduce into the south of FRANCE the culture of the cotton-plant, as has been proposed by some persons, seduced by little trials which attest rather the taste and curiosity

* See in the *Mémoires de l'Académie des Belles-Lettres*, vol. xxviii. page 653, year 1757, the dissertation of M. DUPUIS, on the state of the Roman coin, &c. This profound scholar demonstrates that SCALIGER is mistaken in taking the *siliqua* of the Romans for the fruit of the cornil-tree.

† The bale of cotton commonly weighs three hundred weight.

of the *amateur*, than the speculations of the husbandman*. And should we ever succeed in cultivating on a large scale, and with any success, the cotton-plant in these same countries of FRANCE, precarious crops of bad quality could not indemnify us for the expenses of raising it, nor exempt us from going up the LEVANT to look for cottons more abundant and of a superior quality, that is, whiter, finer, and more silky.

The cotton-tree cultivated in the EAST is that which is called the *annual* cotton-tree, or cotton-plant†, in order to distinguish it from that of the colonial plantations in the WEST INDIES, which is the *cotton-tree*‡. On a field, well prepared and turned up, are marked furrows, in which are planted, at certain distances, a few seeds of the cotton-tree, much the same as is practised with respect to maize. It is in the month of April that these sowings are made in CYPRUS; as soon as the plants are above ground, those which are too weak are pulled up, and the strongest only are left. They are weeded, and the earth about them is loosened in the course of the summer; their pods ripen towards the month of October, and the silky down which they afford is then separated from the seeds that it surrounds.

* A few plants of fine cotton-trees, on which the delicate attentions of luxurious culture have been lavished, and which have yielded choice cotton, are far from furnishing a sufficient proof of such a success, when we are speaking of large plantations, which, to be profitable, ought to require only the simple proceedings of common culture. I am acquainted with a learned and estimable cultivator of the department of *Landes*, who has succeeded in raising, even in the open ground, some cotton-trees, from which he has obtained tolerably fine cotton: I myself have had some under layers and under glasses, in one of our northern departments, that of *La Meurthe*; but from these trials, gratifying to curiosity, it, doubtless, will not be concluded that cotton is to thrive at *Landes*, and still less on the banks of *La Meurthe*.

† *Gossypium herbaceum*. LINN.

‡ *Gossypium arboreum*. LINN.

The humidity of the atmosphere, rains of long duration, or too frequent, are equally unfavourable to the cotton-tree. A strong heat is very suitable to it; this promotes the dazzling whiteness of the down, and contributes to the fineness and substance of the silk. The impetuous north winds are a scourge to this plantation, particularly at the period of flowering; the fruits miscarry, and the crop, almost totally lost, disappoints the hope of the cultivator as well as that of the trader.

At the time when the Venetians possessed the Island of CYPRUS, they had made there large plantations of sugar-canes, which succeeded as well as in EGYPT, in the best districts of the island, like that of PISCOPEIA, on the road from LIMASSOL to BAFFA, where the best cotton in the country also grows; and near LASCA, in the gulf of PANTAIA. Proper buildings were erected on the same spots for refining the sugar, and it may be conceived what advantages would have been derived from these plantations, and these sugar-refineries, in a situation so near EUROPE.

But a stern barbarian, with fire and sword in hand, advanced as an exterminator of all property, and proud of annihilating every trace of ameliorations; which were in his eyes the work of infidels, he caused to be burnt with the sugar-houses, those rich plantations, and thus devoted to sterility vast plains, destined to give fresh activity to industry and national prosperity. Such a rage has produced all the effect that the demon of destruction might expect. Since that disastrous epoch, the inhabitants, persecuted on every side, have taken care not to resume a kind of culture which would have been for them only a pretext for fresh exactions on the part of their oppressors, and they have not ventured to cause the sugar-canes to revive from their ashes. But we are, nevertheless, certain that they were cultivated with success in CYPRUS; and when the island shall pass into

into hands more worthy of possessing it, those valuable seeds will cover again plains whose richness they have already constituted.

It would not even be impossible, nor perhaps very difficult, although it has not yet been attempted, to increase the agricultural riches of the plains of CYPRUS, by making, near the fields of sugar-canes, another kind of plantation, which, most commonly, accompanies them, as their produce is mixed in the use that we make of it, I mean the culture of the coffee-tree. The soil of the island affords, in several points, places favourable to the vegetation of this shrub; the heat of these spots is no less strong than in the country, not far distant, where the fruit of the coffee-tree acquires more perfume; and I am persuaded that essays of this nature, directed with intelligence, would be crowned with complete success. They have, it is said, already been attempted in vain in a more southern country, and which has more analogy to that of YEMEN. But MAILLET, who assures us that the coffee-tree could not thrive in EGYPT*, gives no detail respecting the soil which was chosen for these experiments, its exposure, nor the accessories of its situation; and, notwithstanding this testimony, I am persuaded, as I have already expressed in my TRAVELS IN EGYPT†, that trials, better combined, would insure to that country the culture of the coffee-tree. And circumstances lead me to presume that it would succeed equally well in the Island of CYPRUS.

Here every thing attests the goodness of the soil. The gardens are full of pot-herbs of a very good quality; cauliflowers, in particular, are excellent; and the quantity of vegetables is sufficiently great for ships to lay in a stock, and even carry some to countries less fertile. These same

* *Description de l'Egypte*, 4to. part ii. page 13.

† Vol. ii. page 263.

gardens are brilliant from the lustre of various sorts of flowers; and aromatic plants there diffuse afar their strong and sweet odour. Orange-trees, lemon-trees, pomegranate and other fruit trees, still form groves round the habitations; the greater part never lose their vernal garb; the greater part too are covered with odoriferous flowers, and with these the henné blends the perfume of its clusters. Under balmy and silent bowers, in which waters, brought by subterraneous conduits, maintain verdure and coolness, we should love to recall to mind that the goddess of the island consecrated them to her sweetest mysteries, could the enjoyments of the heart exist in places surrounded by the vestiges of destruction, and which give birth to afflicting recollections.

In all the spots which stupid tyranny has not condemned to barren nakedness, various species of corn yield abundant harvests; but the spaces that they occupy are very circumscribed, if we compare them to the plains which they have covered, and which now present only the livery of neglect and wretchedness. Wheat and barley were one of the principal articles of exportation; at this day they scarcely suffice for the subsistence of the population of the island; even when they escape another scourge, formidable from the quantity, really prodigious, rather than from the strength of its elements. Thousands of myriads of grasshoppers come sometimes in thick clouds, and dart on the fields, ready to yield to the cultivator the exchange of his labours and toils. Fire is less quick: in a few moments the stalks of the plants are laid down and cut in pieces, the ears devoured, the crops destroyed, and the fields desolated.

These ravages are not confined to the harvests; the grasshoppers also strip the mulberry-tree of its leaves, and thus they consign to death the valuable insect which feeds on them: other useful plants become their prey.

prey. On their approach all verdure disappears, and they even gnaw the very bark of the trees.

It is to this fatal combination of the oppression of the government, and of the accidental, but unfortunately too often repeated marks of the anger of Nature, that we must attribute the state of languor, and the almost total decay of the agriculture of CYPRUS.

Endeavours have been made to explain how insects, winged indeed, but little capable of a flight of long duration, could appear all at once, like a devastating storm, on lands surrounded by the sea. Naturalists have imagined that grasshoppers, incapable of crossing a large space of sea, repaired to CYPRUS with the vessels from SYRIA, in which they kept themselves concealed during the voyage*; but it would be difficult, on this hypothesis, to explain the sudden appearance of these living clouds in certain years, while in others none of them are to be seen. On the other hand, must not navigators perceive this prodigious multitude of strangers; and could it be supposed that they would consent to carry them obligingly into countries where scarcity and desolation would land with them? Besides, there is a certain fact, which removes the idea of grasshoppers getting on shipboard; this is, that the sea-shores, on the coast of CYPRUS, are sometimes covered, and infected to a great distance, with their dead bodies floating on the surface of the waters, and these vast wrecks imply a passage more perilous than a voyage on board ship. It cannot therefore be doubted that these swarms of grasshoppers arrive from the continent, where, according to the opinion of M. HASSELQUITZ,

* HASSELQUITZ, *Voyage dans le Levant*, published by C. Linnæus, and translated from the German, by M***, part ii, page 176. Letter to M. Linnæus, dated from Smyrna, 29th August, 1751.

they

they must be formed in the midst of the deserts of ARABIA, whence they depart, supported and impelled by the winds.

The most eastern point of the Island of CYPRUS, Cape SANT ANDREA, being scarcely distant from the coast of SYRIA more than from twenty to twenty-five leagues, a gale of wind may easily carry thither light insects, which assist themselves with their wings, and possess much strength and agility. It is positively known that roving grasshoppers have crossed seas wider than this strait. M. NIEBUHR mentions, that in the month of November, 1762, a prodigious quantity of grasshoppers fell in the environs of DSJIDDA, a town of ARABIA, on the borders of the RED SEA, after having crossed that sea, which, in this place, is upwards of fifty leagues in width; a great many perished, indeed, in the passage; which did not prevent the rest from spreading themselves over the fields in inconceivable numbers*. I have myself seen grasshoppers alight on a vessel, in a voyage along the west coast of AFRICA, abreast of Cape BLANCO, and out of sight of all land. We could not imagine that these insects had come on board with us; they arrived from the east, and were of a species unknown in FRANCE; every part of them was of a pale yellow, or flemot colour. They who do not content themselves with studying Nature in books or in collections, and who visit with some attention the immense galleries which she has herself arranged with admirable order, for the purpose of making them an eternal subject of contemplation, they, I say, may have remarked that the large green-grasshopper of our meadows raises itself with rapidity to a height somewhat considerable, and supports itself for some time in the air, when the weather is warm, the sky serene, and the atmosphere free from humidity; from this we may judge, that the wandering species, probably more vigorous, as well as more ac-

* *Description de l'Arabie*, French edition 4to, vol. i. page 148 and following.

customed to travelling, may, in warm and dry climates, undertake long passages in close columns, and, favoured by the winds, venture to cross gulfs and straits.

And the frightful havock of these numberless phalanxes of devouring insects is not always confined to the fertile plains of the EAST; they are seen, more rarely it is true, but with the same fury, to strip the fields of more western countries of their harvests, of their verdure, to change in an instant the rich and smiling carpet of fecundity into a hideous scene of nakedness and devastation; and, after having deprived the earth of her dress, men of the fruit of their labours and of their means of subsistence, to finish by infecting the air with their carcases heaped up, and by spreading contagion and death. Who knows whether this be not one of the principal causes of the melancholy and cruel permanence of the plague in the EAST?

FRANCE herself has not been exempt from the misfortunes produced by these prodigious and formidable bodies, carrying in their train consternation and want. In the year 1784, a vast swarm of these insects, coming from the east, crossed FRANCE, devoured every thing on their passage, and fell into the British channel. MEZERAI mentions with great detail another irruption of grasshoppers, which deprived the south of FRANCE of its harvests, of its vegetables, and of its trefoil. That historian informs us, that the grasshoppers which escaped from the birds, deposited such a quantity of eggs on the ground, particularly in the sandy spots, that it was thought necessary to cause them to be picked up in order to destroy them. They were found in heaps, and in this manner were collected upwards of three thousand quintals, which were burnt or thrown into the RHONE. On calculating the number of insects that were to be hatched by these masses of eggs, it was found, by a very low esti-

mate, that there was one million seven hundred and fifty thousand to the quintal, which might give, for the total, five hundred and fifty thousand millions of grasshopper's eggs, that would have been hatched the following year. On other occasions a reward was set on grasshoppers; in 1767, two *sous* a pound were paid for them in some parts of LANGUEDOC; in 1787, only one *sou* was given; and yet it was known, by the examination of the accounts of the little community of SAINT GILLES, that eleven or twelve hundred quintals of them had been destroyed on its territory alone*.

In the Island of CYPRUS they also gather madder, which in the LEVANT is called *ali-zary*, and with which cottons are there dyed red; coloquintida, with which several fields are covered almost without culture; opium, which is cultivated at the foot of Mount OLYMPUS, and is purified and packed up at NICOSIA, and a few other articles of less importance. The sandy soil of Cape CROMACHITI is covered with soda, which is burnt in summer in order to send the ashes to Europe, where it is employed in soap-manufactories. The forests afford very fine wood for building and planks; thence are likewise drawn tar and pitch, and the turpentine of CYPRUS is more esteemed than that of any other country.

Flocks that might be more numerous, afford to commerce a tolerably large quantity of wool which passed into ITALY and FRANCE. An important observation on the subject of the conveyance of wool, is not to ship that which may have contracted any humidity, because it then becomes heated, catches fire, and sets the vessel in flames. The same pre-

* See the *Notice des Insectes de la France réputés venimeux*; par M. AMOUREUX fils, médecin de Montpellier, 1789, introduction, page 122 and following.

caution is indispensible for the loading of madder; this root, in order to avoid the same danger, ought not to be packed up but dry and perfectly exempt from all moisture.

One of the productions which the Cypriots rear with the greatest attention, and which has not ceased to be to them an advantageous branch of trade, although like every other it has felt the violence and want of reflection of the government, is the famous wine which is yielded them by vines with twisting and creeping stems, and large and delicious fruit. The best vines, a natural temple, dear to BACCHUS, whence flows this yellowish, rich, and perfumed wine, which constitutes the delight and luxury of our tables, occupy a district called the *Commandery*, because it made a part of the great commandery of the Templars and of the Knights of MALTA. It is comprised between Mount OLYMPUS and the towns of LIMASSOL and PAPHOS. Although all the wines of CYPRUS come not from this district, they do not the less, on that account, bear, in trade, the name of wines of the commandery, in order to enhance their value. Under that name is found some very common, and at a very low price. I have purchased at ALEXANDRIA some of this pretended wine of the commandery, at ten parats, or a little more than twelve *sous* the *dame-jeanne**; it was new, very light, and had no resemblance in point of flavour to the distinguished CYPRUS wine. From all parts of the island the wines are collected at LARNICA, where they are kept till they are shipped; but they want age in order to acquire the excellent qualities which cause them to be so much in request. The Greeks of CYPRUS, from a very ancient custom, when they have a child born, bury large vessels filled with wine, and closely stopped; these are not taken out of the ground but for the marriage of that same child.

* A glass-vessel containing about three gallons English measure.

This wine, which might be called family-wine, since it serves to celebrate its most happy events, preserved secure from the impressions of the air, becomes exquisite on being taken out of the earth, and a real treasure to a delicate palate. Among persons in easy circumstances, the quantity of wine buried is seldom consumed in marriage-festivals, and a part is sold to Europeans, who have not always the opportunity of procuring any so good.

CYPRUS wine is conveyed to EUROPE, either in casks, or in those large glass bottles, covered with rush or wicker, which are called *dames-jeannes*. This latter method would be preferable, the wine keeping better in glass vessels, if, on the other hand, the loss of it were not to be feared, from the danger of breaking the *dames-jeannes* in the course of a rather long voyage. When CYPRUS wine is shipped in casks, and the price is not considered in order to have that of the best quality, the purchaser procures casks in which has been left a certain quantity of lees, which have the property of improving the wine; accordingly the casks, thus provided with lees, sell four times dearer than those which are destitute of them.

A modern author, who has written his travels to the LEVANT, struck with the excellence of the CYPRUS wines, is astonished that the merchants of EUROPE have not tried to convey thither plants of these celebrated vines. He takes the trouble of describing minutely the precautions necessary to be observed for removing these plants, in such a manner that they might again strike in the new ground appropriated to them*. It certainly is not in this that the difficulty consists; living plants are brought to EUROPE from distances much more considerable. It is even

* *Voyages dans l'île de Chypre, la Syrie, et la Palestine, par M. l'Abbé MARITI*, translated from the Italian, vol. i. page 225.

well known that FRANCIS I. had procured from CYPRUS a sufficient quantity of vine plants for covering fifty *arpens* or French acres at FONTAINEBLEAU. We are ignorant what is become of these vines, planted at so great an expense; and we should be greatly mistaken to attribute to them the good quality and the reputation which the superior white grapes of FONTAINEBLEAU owe only to the manner of their being planted and cultivated, and to the care bestowed on them. But the real difficulty, and it is insurmountable, is to meet with the same soil, the same exposure, the same climate, the same degrees of temperature, in a word, to make CYPRUS wine elsewhere than in CYPRUS.

The arts there languish more than agriculture; those cultivated are but few, and, with the exception of the preparation of the leather called TURKEY leather or Morocco, there are scarcely any that deserve attention. This leather is prepared at NICOSIA and in the neighbouring villages; the workmen pretend to be in possession of a particular process, of which they make a secret; what is certain, is, that the leather which has passed through their hands is more lively and more brilliant in colour, and is, in general, better dressed than in the other parts of TURKEY, where, nevertheless, it is very handsome.

It is not only on leather that the workmen of NICOSIA and of the environs know how to apply dyes equally brilliant and durable; they also manufacture there printed calicoes, the colours of which become brighter by wear and bleaching. Other cloths, half silk, half cotton, are likewise manufactured in the same places; they are fine, but till agriculture and industry have resumed some activity, it will be difficult to introduce those articles into trade, on account of their price, which the too small quantity of the raw materials renders too high.

In return for these productions of nature and art, the Cypriots receive woollen cloths, fattins, light stuffs, laces, some of our metals, INDIA spices, commodities of our colonies, &c. &c. These articles of the import-trade are not so numerous as they would be, if the worst of governments had not singularly weakened the population and resources of one of the finest countries of the EAST.

CHAPTER IV.

Climate of the Island of Cyprus. — Cause of the great drought which prevails there. — France threatened with the same ills by the destruction of her forests. — Inhabitants of the island. — Mount Olympus. — Famagusta. — Salamis. — Nicofia. — Larnica. — Citium. — The Salterns. — Limaffol. — Cape de' Gatti. — Paphos. — Cerines. — Numerous changes in the government of the Island of Cyprus.

THE nature of the productions of the Island of CYPRUS would sufficiently indicate the nature of its climate, if its vicinity to SYRIA, one of the hottest countries in the world, was not sufficient to convey an idea of it. In the summer, the heat felt there is, indeed, excessive; but it is not equal in every part of the island, which, being intersected, from east to west, by a chain of mountains, affords two different regions as well as two different temperatures. To the north, the winds that blow from the high mountains of CARAMANIA, checked and repelled by those with which the island is crossed in its length, temper the heat of the summer, produce piercing colds during the winter, and preserve frozen snow on the most lofty spots, during the greater part of the year. This northern region is also, generally speaking, the most hilly, the most wooded, the most rural, and the least fertile.

In the plains of the south, on the contrary, the heat of the sun, reflected by the shelves of rocks, which, in a great measure, form on this side the back of the mountains, there expands at full liberty. The north winds not being able to clear the natural barrier which the middle of

the island opposes to them, cool not the atmosphere; and, did there not spring up, from time to time, a light sea-breeze which moderates the heat, it would be insupportable in certain days of the summer. Rain here is also very rare in this season, and long and cruel droughts sometimes banish an agreeable verdure, destroy the plants, attract close and numberless columns of grasshoppers, and place frightful Scarcity on Aridity's hard and burning throne. The irrigation of the lands, neglected by men, as laborious perhaps as formerly, but depressed and disheartened, can no longer moisten fields parched up; while, in some districts, stagnant and useless waters render them an unwholesome abode. Running streams are scarce, and the greater part of the rivers which flow here are only torrents formed by the winter rains and the melting of the snow on the mountains, and whose bed is dry during warm weather.

This dryness of the earth and of the atmosphere continues daily to increase, in proportion as the plantations become more scarce, as the number of the trees diminishes, and as the forests are felled. A culpable want of foresight respecting the successive decay of a happy fertility, is by no means astonishing under the destructive administration of the Turks; but that, in countries where public economy is a science cultivated and thoroughly understood, the same disorders which pollute territories subjected to barbarians, should be propagated and maintained, is that which we have some difficulty to conceive, and which excites indignation. The ancients consecrated forests to the Divinity; respect commanded that these should be spared, and it was not without religious circumspection that they carried thither the hatchet. To a protecting mythology has succeeded the excess of luxury and disorder. Woods, which our ancestors had chosen for temples, sacred oaks, under whose shade they had erected altars, simple as nature, have been overthrown: the sacrilegious axe has not spared the asylum of ancient piety, nor the fertile

resources of succeeding ages. Naked and frowning rocks shew themselves on the brow of the mountains, which, not long since, vigorous vegetation decorated with the finest trees; the slopes affording more facility to devastation, are almost entirely stripped; the solitary trees, which, in our fields, served as natural and immutable boundaries as well as for shelter to our flocks, have likewise fallen victims of licentiousness; every where the property of our posterity has become the prey of culpable and faithless trustees; and the most interesting part of our national wealth has seemed to be governed only by the laws of cupidity and plunder: already have the rains washed down into the plains part of the earth which covered the summit of the mountains, the hills are sinking, the vallies are rising, the springs are growing dry, the bed of the rivers is filling up, the fields are becoming parched; and if a repairing government does not take wise but speedy measures, we shall have to transmit to posterity nothing but a sum of misfortunes ever-increasing; and the foil of FRANCE would run the risk of sharing the aridity with which a detestable administration has struck that of the Island of CYPRUS.

The GREEKS who inhabit it are tall and well made; their countenance and their manners are equally noble and agreeable. But their moral character is not thought to correspond with these external good qualities. They are said to be the most cunning and most knavish of all the Greeks; we should be tempted to cease to pity them for the oppression under which they groan, if we did not know that dissimulation and this sort of obliquity of character are frequently symptoms of weakness, and the companions of slavery; and if, on the other hand, these same men did not sometimes make us forget their faults by their virtues, and, particularly, by those of hospitality, which they exercise in a most generous manner. The Cypriot is gay, and a great friend to show and pleasure; he is not the only slave that we have seen dance in his fetters.

It

It may well be expected that beauty ought to shine, with all its lustre, in the spot chosen by VENUS, for establishing her sweet empire, and the worship of the Graces and Pleasures. The women of CYPRUS were formerly celebrated for their charms; they still preserve them; nor have they even lost the remembrance that their island was consecrated to love. These beautiful women are very choice in their attire; they are excessively fond of flowers, as the most natural and most elegant accompaniment of their attractions; they do not dissemble their wish to please, but they manifest it with an amiable frankness. Although in the enjoyment, perhaps, of less liberty than formerly, the restriction to which custom, or, to speak more correctly, the caprices of men subject them, does not amount to constraint; and at least they no longer compose the disgraceful tribute which their ancestors paid to the queens of PERSIA, of fifty among them, whose duty, in a haughty and despotic court, consisted in throwing themselves between the wheels of the cars, and in presenting their back to the queen, who made use of it as a footstool.

The most elevated, as well as the most remarkable of the mountains, the chain of which divides the Island of CYPRUS lengthwise, is Mount OLYMPUS. The Greeks of the present day call it *TROGODOS*, *TROBODOS*, or *TROBOS*. In order to distinguish it from another mountain of the same name in NATOLIA, and from another more famous in MACEDONIA, the ancients gave this the name of Little OLYMPUS. On its summit they had built a temple dedicated to VENUS, the entrance of which, by a regulation very strange for a spot consecrated to the goddess of Love, was prohibited to women; they were even forbidden to look at it. To this temple, an elegant and sacred recess, where were celebrated the enjoyments of nature, had succeeded retreats erected for privations. Numbers of convents were built on the same ground. There, laborious cenobites embellished the slope of the mountain with gardens, and planta-

tions of all forts, laid out with taste; this was the most charming abode in the island, and the rich Cypriots went thither, during the summer, to enjoy the coolness of agreeable groves, watered by limpid streams, directed with considerable art. Insensible to a happy harmony of nature and industry, the Turk has carried his ferocity and ravages into this beautiful district; the monasteries have been demolished; and cool and cheerful spots have been clothed with the rugged garb of Sterility.

The Island of **CYPRUS** is about seventy leagues in length from east to west; its greatest breadth from north to south is thirty leagues; and its circumference is nearly one hundred and eighty. In coasting its south shore, the lands of the long point of Cape **SANT ANDREA**, formerly Cape **DINARETE**, is found a large gulf, formed by this cape and Cape **GRECO**, which the ancients called *Throni*, and on which **PTOLEMY** places a town of the same name. At the bottom of this gulf is the town of **FAMAGUSTA**, a modern name, respecting the etymology of which the learned are not agreed; but they pretty generally admit that this town is built on the ruins of the ancient **ARSINOË**, which took its name from its founder, the sister of **PTOLEMY PHILADELPHUS**, king of **EGYPT**. Situated in a bottom, **FAMAGUSTA** is not perceived at a distance, on arriving thither from the sea: its harbour is safe, but by no means spacious, and it is half choked up; small vessels alone can enter it, and large ships anchor without. Some fortifications, the work of **LUSIGNAN**, of the Genoese, and of the Venetians, who have successively had possession of them, defend the harbour and the enclosure of the town, as much as they can serve for defence in their present state of degradation, the effect of the negligence of the Turks, who know only how to destroy, but never repair.

These ramparts recall to mind a deplorable anecdote of the most atrocious violation of the law of nations and of war; it may serve to convey an idea of

of the character and of the civilization of a people in whose eyes heroism and courageous fidelity to our duties are crimes, and whose profound cruelty sports with promises the most solemn, and conventions the most sacred. At FAMAGUSTA, the tears of the man of feeling water the spot where MARCO ANTONIO BRAGADINO defended that town with so much valour against the army of the Turks, commanded by MUSTAPHA, general of the emperor SELIM, and he shudders with indignation at the recital of the most execrable treachery of which that brave European died a victim.

After having sustained six assaults against the united Ottoman forces, and experienced the ravages of five hundred thousand shells, the valiant BRAGADINO, commander of the Venetian army, being forced to yield to numbers, capitulated on the first of August 1571. The conditions were settled; they were honourable to the besieged, and worthy of their long and brave resistance; but, at the moment when the European general went to MUSTAPHA's tent, in order to announce to him his departure and take leave of him, the barbarian caused him to be seized and delivered up to the most cruel tortures. He was skinned alive, then empaled; and his skin, stuffed with straw, was hung to the yard-arm of a galley, as an eternal testimony of the horrible inhumanity of the Turks, and a signal of vengeance to civilized nations.

We hasten to quit a spot witness of so dreadful an act of cruelty, and we enter, with pleasure, into a plain which extends to the east, or rather to the north-east of FAMAGUSTA, situated at the extremity of this plain, towards the sea. There, was the ancient kingdom of SALAMIS, founded by TEUCER, companion to AJAX, who, on this ground, built a town which he called SALAMIS, from the name of the island where he was born*.

born*. Some ruins announce, in an uncertain manner, the site of this ancient town, as the culture and fecundity of the plain, which is still the best district in the island, faintly attest what these formerly were.

About twenty leagues to the north-east of FAMAGUSTA, in the middle of a vast plain and in the centre of the island, stands NICOSIA, which is its capital. This is now the residence of the governor, as it was formerly of the kings of CYPRUS. Their palaces, remarkable for the beauty of the architecture, experience the fate common to all the ancient edifices of which the Turks have made themselves masters, and which they abandon to destruction. The superb church of SANTA SOFIA, in which the Christian kings were crowned, has been degraded, in order to be converted into a mosque; and the habitation of those sovereigns, partly demolished, and rebuilt in the eastern taste, is the residence of the *moselem* or governor. The situation of this town is agreeable; streams are here abundant; and it is surrounded by fine gardens; its soil is excellent, and waits only for the hands of freemen to resume the aspect of prosperity of which it is susceptible.

If we continue to follow the south coast, we meet with another gulf, spacious indeed, yet less so than that of FAMAGUSTA. Ships there find the fine road of LARNICA, the most frequented of the island. The town whose name it bears is at some distance from the sea. There it is that the consuls and merchants of European nations fix their residence, and, within these few years, trade was still carried on there with some degree of activity. But, as if the Turk could leave no place without stamping on it

* “ *Nil desperandum Teucro duce, et auspice Teucro,*

“ *Certus enim promissit Apollo,*

“ *Ambiguam tellure novâ Salamina futuram.*”

HOR. lib. i. oa. 7.

the impression of his disastrous government, the environs of LARNICA no longer correspond with the still flourishing state of its commerce. With the exception of the gardens, which adjoin to the town itself, and into which industry has found means to conduct fertilizing waters, the circumjacent fields are arid; their soil is poor and dried up; a few trees, scattered and insulated, scarcely leave them the semblance of vegetation; barley alone grows there in some favoured districts, and there is, every where, a want of water. Accordingly LARNICA is not a healthful abode; one is there exposed to a suffocating heat. Yet forests of olive-trees formerly covered those plains, at this day almost barren; and, as I have already mentioned, there are still to be seen in the environs immense cisterns, intended for preserving the oil that they yielded.

Very near LARNICA was CITIUM, now CHITI, a celebrated town of antiquity. It was a colony of Phœnicians. Here was born the philosopher ZENO, and here died CYMON, general of the Athenians. It is impossible to dig the ground in the environs of LARNICA, without meeting with the remains of the ancient town; but the suspicious Turk, imagining that all the researches of science or of curiosity have no other object than the discovery of some heap of buried gold, watches them with continual attention, and makes of them a subject of extortions; so that the antiquary very seldom dares to dig for the objects of his pursuit, and the riches which the earth conceals remain buried there with the knowledge which history and the arts would thence obtain, till the time when the heavy yoke of the Turks shall cease to pollute and deface countries formerly so brilliant.

The hamlet of the SALTERNS is but half a league from LARNICA. It has obtained its name from a large lake near the sea, at this day half-choked and

up, and wherein is formed salt, which is still an article of trade. In the fine roadstead of the *SALTERNS*, the vessels laden for the capital of the island, and the ships of war destined to protect them, come to an anchor. At this place the merchants of *LARNICA* have their storehouses.

LIMASSOL, formerly *NEMOSIA*, is now but a miserable city, full of ruins and rubbish. Its harbour is, nevertheless, not a little frequented; here vessels load with grain, cotton, and other productions of the earth. The best wines are made in its environs, and it is the emporium of all those of the island who are concerned in trade.

Not far from this town, if, however, *LIMASSOL* deserve that appellation, stood the ancient *LIMASSOL*, which, still more anciently, was called *AMATHUS*, celebrated for a temple consecrated to *VENUS* and *ADONIS*, and in which, according to *PAUSANIAS*, was preserved a rich necklace of precious stones, ornamented with gold, the work of *VULCAN*, and given in the first instance to *HERMIONE**. But this ancient town is destroyed; like *PAPHOS*, *CYTHERA*, the charming *IDALIUM*, and other places which the Graces embellished, it is effaced from the soil of the Island of *CYPRUS*; and, in lieu of the sweet and smiling images which it presented, it now excites nothing but regret and painful recollections.

Near *LIMASSOL*, and to the east of it, is the most southern promontory of the island; it is a small peninsula, which is connected to the continent only by a very narrow tongue of land; it was formerly named the promontory of *AGROTIRI*; at present it is called *Cape DE' GATTI*, on account of the great number of cats kept by the monks, who, in the fourth century, obtained permission to establish themselves there, as well as on Mount *OLYMPUS*, on condition of keeping a great many of those animals for hunt-

* Liv. ix.—*Voyage de la Béotie*, vol. ii. page 316.

ing snakes which had multiplied in the island to a frightful pitch, and which, it is asserted, have no greater enemies than cats.

After doubling Cape DE' GATTI, the coast trends to the north-west, and, at the head of a small cove, lies a very indifferent harbour, which affords but an insecure shelter; the bottom is thickly strewn with rocks, by which the cables of vessels would soon be cut, if the precaution were not taken to buoy them up, by means of empty, floating casks. Here stood PAPHOS, where VENUS landed after her birth in the midst of the waters. An ancient temple had been constructed in honour of her; here doves were flying about incessantly and built their nests; no victim's blood stained her altars; such sacrifices would have disgusted the goddess of Love; in her worship there was nothing but what was mild, and the numerous offerings which were brought thither, from all quarters, did not afflict humanity. In this temple, a celebrated oracle pronounced on the destinies of men, and its high priesthood was an eminent dignity. The number of strangers that the worship of VENUS brought to PAPHOS, the concourse of the inhabitants of the island, the beauty of its situation and of its edifices, the enchanting aspect of its plains, and the freedom which there reigned, had rendered it the seat of pleasure and delight. So many charms are at this day replaced by ruins, a village, a pitiful castle, some paltry houses, a few mean Greek churches, wretchedness, and the harsh name of *BAFFA*, or *BAFFO*.

On the north coast of the island, there is no place particularly remarkable, if we except CERINES, the ancient *CERAUNIA*; like PAPHOS, it exhibits nothing but ruins, as a testimony of its past grandeur. A harbour, equally bad, serves only for the trade of the island with *CARAMANIA*, whose mountains are perceived from the heights of CERINES. The communication between this harbour and the port of SELEFSKI, whose name

recalls

recalls to mind that of SELEUCIA in CILICIA, is frequent; in order to render it more so, there are two packets solely destined for this short navigation, which, nevertheless, was profitable, and which was in the hands of the French.

Such, in a few words, is the geographical description of an island, which, in former times, divided into nine kingdoms, passed successively under the domination of the Egyptians, the Phœnicians, the Persians, the Macedonians, the Romans, the Europeans of the West, and the Arabs. The crusades rendered it the appendage of some princes of EUROPE, who gave it up to the Venetians. Sultan SELIM snatched it from them in 1570; and, since that epoch, it has made a part of the Ottoman empire, in order to be again severed from it, and exposed to fresh vicissitudes, inseparable from human institutions. Nothing is stable in Nature but Nature herself; and the more men deviate from her by the excess of civilization, if I may so express myself, the more are social forms subject to vary, and exposed to innovations.

CHAPTER V.

Picture of the present situation of the Island of Cyprus.—Galéode arané-oïde, an enormous spider of a very dangerous nature.—The conquest of the Island of Cyprus would have singularly favoured that of Egypt.

IT is not only in regard to the productions of the soil, that Nature is counteracted in the Island of CYPRUS, and that her bounties are disfavoured and rejected. The rigours of an oppressive domination have shed their baneful influence over fields, arts, and men. Every day we see commerce fail, industry decay, lands dry up, and agriculture become impoverished. Vallies, once shaded by useful or agreeable trees, which culture enriched with harvests of every species, or adorned with verdure or flowers, now remain uncultivated, and over-run with brambles and other stubborn, meagre, and useless plants. One may travel whole days in plains deserted and abandoned to that mournful and pernicious fecundity, which, on lands impatient to produce, is sterility's constant companion; in factitious wastes, the gloomy and fatal effect of the power of the evil-minded, where the traveller would think himself buried in vast solitudes, did he not, here and there, perceive straggling flocks and scattered habitations. Every day too we see population, which increases and settles only where are to be found abundance of provisions, activity of trade and of manufactures, and justice on the part of the government, diminish in a perceptible manner; and men quit a desolated country, and, for the most part, seek spots less disturbed, abodes less unhappy.

The animals which constitute the wealth or the pleasures of man, are here less numerous and of a breed less handsome than formerly. The affluence of the owners imparts to domestic animals the qualities which make them valuable; on the contrary, they degenerate, when they no longer have any thing to share with their masters but a painful and uncomfortable existence. And, indeed, there are now scarcely to be seen here any of those horses of distinguished race, descendants of the courfers of ARABIA, and no less famous for their vigour than their fleetness, nor any of those beautiful greyhounds renowned for their ardour and their address in the chace. Both these are no longer to be found except in a few families, which still preserve the remains of their ancient opulence. Cattle are not to be seen here in plenty, as in former times; nor do flocks of sheep with broad and trailing tails, or of goats, whose hair served for making fine camlets, now repair, in such great numbers, to the declivity of hills clothed with succulent herbs; nor do they now so much enliven solitary spots, where they feed in full tranquillity, and which Nature seems to have intended for the simple and pure charms of pastoral life.

The silk-worm, deprived of part of its food, in half-ruined plantations of mulberry-trees, now no more multiplies with so much profusion; and families of kermes, rivals of the cochineal insect, scarcely any longer furnish colouring substance to our manufactories. Game is also less common, and birds of passage come not now, in such considerable flights, to alight on lands, which afford them not the same shelter, nor the same abundance. The sea even ceases to furnish so many resources to the inhabitants of the island; not that a destructive power has been able to penetrate into the very bosom of the waters: those which bathe the coasts are still extremely full of fish; but hands and activity are wanting for the fishery, as well as for the other branches of industry and commerce.

If every thing that is good and useful has suffered and decayed in CYPRUS, every thing that is of no value or mischievous has there prospered. Snakes, which delight in thickets or under rubbish, there propagate at their ease, and it will soon be necessary again to have recourse to cats in order to clear the fields of them. Hurtful and hideous insects increase and freely elaborate their venom under the damp and warm shade of the ruins; tarantulæ, with a black and hairy body and yellow and brilliant eyes, are not here uncommon; and here is also to be met with, though but very seldom indeed, that frightful spider, whose aspect alone terrifies, whose venom strikes with death whomsoever it reaches, whose natural history, in short, is yet little known.

The first thing to be done, when we mean to speak of an animal of which some naturalists have already made mention, is to unravel its nomenclature; and, indeed, this is a task very ungracious, very minute, and which can please none but contracted and pedantic minds. Although few authors have written on the ugly and dangerous insect in question, each of them has imposed on it a different denomination, the most certain mean of their never coming to a right understanding with each other. Amid this confusion and this continual and arbitrary substitution of names*, I shall fix on that of *galéode*, which OLIVIER, a celebrated naturalist and traveller, has given to this species of spider, in order to distinguish it from the other species, from which it is, in fact, very different†;

* M. PALLAS has called this spider, *Phalangium aranéoïdes* (*Spicil. Zool. fascicul. 9, page 37, tab. iii, fig. 7, 8, and 9*). M. FABRICIUS, from LICHTENSTEIN, another foreign naturalist, has given it the name of *sôlpuga aranéoïdes*. (*Supplément Entomol. page 294*). This same denomination of *sôlpuga* has been adopted, with the epithet *arachnodes*, by M. HERBST, known principally by a good work on crustaceous animals, in a very extensive Memoir, which he has recently published at Berlin on this subject (*page 37, tab. i, fig. 2*).

† *Galéode aranéoïde*, (*Encyclop. Méthod. Hist. Nat. des Insectes*).

this

this is a deference due to an estimable man of learning, and at the same time a service to the science of Nature, which, if we chose to believe some people, more attached to words than to things, would soon be nothing more than the barren knowledge of arbitrary names, and phrases equally dry and insignificant.

The notions that the ancients have transmitted to us respecting the various animals with which they were acquainted, and particularly insects, are, generally speaking, too vague and too incomplete for us to be enabled to assign with certainty to what animal each of them belongs. It appears to me a rather bold conjecture, to decide with M. HERBST*, that the frightful spider or the *galéode* of the LEVANT (See *Plate III*). is the insect which the Greek and Latin authors have named *sphalangium*, *phalangium*, *solifuga*, *solpuga*, *tetragnathium*, and *mus araneus*. Indeed, those authors have given to several species of spiders† the name of *sphalangium* or *phalangium*, which modern naturalists have reserved for the spiders alone with long legs, with the head confounded with the corselet, and of which a very common species is the *faucheur* of our countries. Neither does the *solifuga* or *solpuga* appear to me to be the *galéode*; the literal signification of this name is *sun-shunner*, and it has been equally applied to a species of ant and to a species of spider; but the *solifuga* spider is an insect extremely small (*animal perexiguum*), which is frequently found in SARDINIA, in the silver-mines, which creeps into the dark, and whose bite is venomous‡: now, the *galéode* is not a very small insect, it avoids not the broad day, and is not found, or at least no one has said that it was found, in the Island of SARDINIA. It is scarcely more pos-

* Memoir before quoted.

† CÆTIUS and others have applied the name of *phalangia* to six species of spiders.

‡ SOLINUS, according to PLINY, *Polyt. hist. cap. ix.*

fible to recognize it in the account which PLINY has left us of the *tetragnathium* or spider with four jaws, and which that naturalist divides into two species; the one, and this is the most dangerous, having on the middle of the head two white lines; and the other, whose movement is slower, having the body cinereous and whitish at its extremity*. As for the *mus araneus*, or the spider-rat of the ancient naturalists, it is described in their writings, as a quadruped, in such a manner as not to be mistaken: this is the spider-rat, an animal well known, and which the ancients may have easily observed; whereas it is not certain that they have had a knowledge of the *galéode*; an insect fortunately very seldom found in the warmest regions of EUROPE and ASIA.

I have taken the liberty of making these critical remarks only to shew, that, according to every appearance, the *galéode* was unknown to the ancients; and to give a fresh proof of the difficulty of adapting, with precision, the greater part of the notes scattered in their works, to the animals whose history we are now writing. However it may be with respect to these probabilities, in inquiring into which we lose much time, while we run the risk of being bewildered, faithful to the plan which I have marked out for myself, to collect observations and facts, before I reason on the origin of denominations, and lose myself in vague conjectures, I shall give, in a few words, the description of the *galéode aranéoïde*, or scorpion-spider, which I had an opportunity of observing in the LEVANT, and report what is known respecting this mischievous insect.

Some very prominent characters approximate it to the *phalangium*; its head is, in like manner, confounded with the corselet, and the piece of

* PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xxix. cap. iv.

which

which they are composed is nearly in the form of a truncated cone, whose base is placed in front, and serves as an anterior border: in the middle of this border is a blackish tubercle with two eyes, which appeared to me to be facetwise; between them, and in front, are remarked two other little tubercles, which might also be taken for eyes; however, I do not imagine that they are really so, but I consider them rather as peduncles of eye-lashes or thick hairs, some of which, seen through the magnifier, appeared truncated and tubular.

To this piece, which supplies the place of head and corselet, are attached the organs of nutrition, and two pairs of arms or antennulæ. Two enormous jaws, which the modern French entomologists call *mandibules*, at first strike the eye; they are larger than the piece itself, or the head, in front of which they are fixed; their form is conical; they adhere to each other by their inner side; they are hairy, entire, and not bent like those of the *faucheur*; each of these jaws is terminated by two brown nippers, scaly, notched underneath, ending in a point, bowed in a contrary direction, and crossing each other at their extremity. I examined them both with a lens of great power, and I discovered no opening that could serve as a drain for a poisonous liquor, as is perceived in the claws of spiders. It is nevertheless very certain that this insect is venomous to an excess, which leads us to presume that the holes through which its venom is emitted, are extremely small, and at the same time that the poison which exudes from them, is of an extremely active nature, since the very minute portion which can flow from an imperceptible opening, is sufficient to occasion death.

At the origin of the nippers, and underneath them, issues a small scaly, cylindrical net, terminated in a point, thrown back, and laid on the top of the support of the nippers or on the mandible; I am speaking
only

only of the individual which I more particularly observed; for I presume that this appendage is no more than one of the distinctive characters of the sex; underneath these same mandibles, and in the interval that separates them, is perceived a small body, which FABRICIUS calls a *lip* in the form of a sucker. This body appeared to me composed of a little shank, having at its extremity two cylindrical, hairy pieces, close to each other.

The two pairs of arms or antennulæ are inserted in the lower part of this piece, which I have said replaces, in the *phalangia* in general, and in the *galéode* in particular, the head and the corselet; these arms are composed of a series of joints, almost all cylindrical, beset with long hairs, some even with teeth, and fashioned much in the same manner, except that the anterior arms are larger, and have, besides, at their extremity, a sort of knob, or short and round joint, which, according to OLIVIER, should indicate a male.

Before I pass to the belly or the abdomen of the insect, I must observe that there exists between it and the corselet an intermediate piece, serving as a fastening to four pairs of feet, which differ essentially from the arms, by their having, in addition, a tarsus formed by two or three joints, and at the extremity of which are two toes, bent, long, and each provided with a small brown, scaly hook. The feet, reckoning from those which are the nearest to the arms, successively increase in size; so that the last are very long. These have, in other respects, a particularity very remarkable; on the lower side of the part which, by comparison with other animals, might be called the hip, are discovered four singular appendages: these are membranous bodies, very thin, and transparent, formed by a small pedicle, which is surmounted by a piece almost triangular, bent, and concave. A better comparison cannot be made of these

appendages than to the half of a funnel, which has been cut in its height; they approximate the *galéodes* to the scorpions, which have, as is well known, two bodies in the form of a comb, placed near the hind feet.

The abdomen is fixed to the piece which answers to the corselet, not by a short pedicle, as in spiders, but by its greatest transversal diameter; it also differs from the abdomen of spiders, from its having incisions or rings, whereas the coat of that of spiders is whole and continuous.

The *galéode*, whose length is about an inch, has a body of a livid yellow, and beset with long hairs, and even with prickly ones in several places. It runs with prodigious swiftness, and thus more easily escapes its destruction, in which mankind are interested, its bite being very dangerous, as I have already mentioned, and its venom very subtle. The parts which are attacked by it swell in an instant, and occasion excessive pain, followed by certain death, if proper remedies be not speedily employed. Those which are most effectual, are oil, as a topical application, together with cordials and sudorifics, taken internally.

The *galéode aranéoïde*, or scorpion-spider, is met with in several parts of the LEVANT, in ARABIA, in SYRIA, in PERSIA, in ASIA MINOR, and even in the country comprised between the DON and the VOLGA, in the environs of the CASPIAN SEA, and whose temperature is much warmer than might be expected, in such northerly regions. These filthy insects are there becoming more and more common; M. PALLAS saw two of them in a house which he occupied at ZARIZYN, and he was informed that several had been killed in the habitation of the commandant of that fortress, during the stay that he made there. However, there was only one person who was bitten by it, but he was saved by the timely assistance

ance given him, and he experienced no other bad consequences than a large swelling and some sharp pains*. The Arabs, who are acquainted with no remedy for the bite of this insect, dread it extremely.

It is undoubtedly almost needless to mention that an animal, or rather a four-footed monster, of the size of a horse, and, in other respects, similar to a snake, the *laminga*, which DAPPER, according to another author equally credulous, affirms to exist on Mount OLYMPUS, and to devour men, is only an imaginary being, engendered by imposture and credulity. The Island of CYPRUS is afflicted with a sufficient number of real ills, without our endeavouring to increase them by imaginary scourges.

But the greater part, as well as the most considerable, of these ills, are vices and disorders of the administration: should the Island of CYPRUS cease to be a prey to the violence and gross incapacity of the government which tears it to pieces; should repairing hands come thither to second the efforts of Nature, who has done so much for this interesting island, the splendour with which it formerly shone, and its ancient prosperity, would revive, and it would still be again found one of the richest and most agreeable countries in the world.

And had circumstances allowed, had it been possible to obtain the consent of the PORTE, or could it have been foreseen that respect for that restless, suspicious power, led away by the insinuations of the enemies of FRANCE, could have served only to excite its resentment, the conquest of the Island of CYPRUS ought, perhaps, to have preceded that of

* Travels of M. P. S. PALLAS in different provinces of the empire of RUSSIA, and in northern ASIA, translated by GAUTHIER DE LA PEYRONE'E, 5 vol. 4to. page 313.

EGYPT. The French would there have found abundant means of subsistence, and in the Greeks, by whom it is inhabited, zealous partisans, friends who would have welcomed and assisted them, instead of barbarians whom it was necessary to fight and slaughter; no obstacle would have opposed the landing of the army; the fortified places which are there to be found are dismantled, and so destitute of troops and military stores, that they could not have made any resistance. Numerous harbours, which it would have been easy to put into a respectable state of defence, would have preserved the fleet secure from all attack; ships, cruising in the sea of SYRIA, would have blocked up all its ports; and when the moment should have been thought favourable, these same ships would, in a very little time, have conveyed to the coast of EGYPT, an army already accustomed to the heat of the climate, and reinforced by Cypriots*. The debarkation being effected, the fleet would have abandoned the dangerous shores of ALEXANDRIA, and regained the roads of CYPRUS. An easy, quick, and continual communication, which it would scarcely have been possible for the enemy to intercept, would have been established between the two colonies; the island would have furnished the continent with provisions, other supplies, and particularly wood, in which EGYPT is deficient: the small number of useful trees which adorn and cool the plains of this latter country, would not have been sacrificed to the wants of the army, and to military erections; the enemy would not have had the facility of establishing himself at ST. JEAN D'ACRE; descents would have been effected, as it were, on every point of the coast of SYRIA; the desert which separates it from EGYPT would not have cost the lives of many brave men in marches excessively laborious, across arid and burning plains which there is no drop

* The Island of *Cyprus* is scarcely seventy leagues from *Alexandria*, and the current carries vessels thither very rapidly.

of water to moisten; in short, to the glory of breaking the chains of two nations, oppressed and degraded by ages of slavery, we should have added the happiness of restoring to liberty, and to their former prosperity, a people who are not unworthy of those blessings, and whose gratitude would have been manifested towards their deliverers, by every sort of assistance and every act of devotion.

The resources which the possession of the Island of CYPRUS would have afforded for the conquest of EGYPT, would have extended to its preservation; they would have secured and consolidated the acquisition of a country, which, from its position, is the key and the emporium of the commerce of three parts of the world, and of which the Roman emperors, who were acquainted with its importance, were so jealous, that they strictly forbade the entrance of it to senators and generals who had not obtained their express permission for that purpose, from an apprehension that the prodigious fecundity and the delights of that beautiful and rich country might lead them to attempt usurpation.

This plan of an expedition, however brilliant, however advantageous it may appear, was not practicable, no doubt, since it was not adopted; it could not indeed escape the penetrating eye and the profound combinations of that man of genius who certainly perceived, in its execution, obstacles sufficiently powerful for rejecting it; in fact, it could not but have been pleasing to him to emancipate from the most tyrannical oppression, and to restore to its ancient state of splendour, a country to which its flourishing situation had occasioned to be given the epithet *happy*, the just application of which is so valuable and so rare; and we must suppose that political considerations of great weight opposed this more extensive development of the views which directed the expedition to EGYPT.

However, and it is sufficiently manifest, the ideas which I have just traced, the result of my observations on the very places, and of my meditations, can have no merit but in the eyes of philosophy; and it is well known that philosophy is frequently at variance with political arrangements. Little accustomed to the latter, I am scarcely acquainted with any policy but that of humanity, the study of which has been easy to me; I have found it in my heart.....But I resume the sequel of my narration.

CHAPTER VI.

*Captain of the polacre.—Goat-sucker.—Coast of Caramania.—Castel-Rosso.
—Birds.—Currents.—Turkish caravel.—Turkish navy.—Efforts of the
Turks for improving their navy.—Want of foresight of France.—Bonito.
—Danger incurred by the polacre.—Put into Rhodes.—Gulf of
Macri.*

ON the 19th of October, that is, the third day after our departure from ALEXANDRIA, the westerly wind, which blew directly in our teeth from the Island of CANDIA, whither we were bound, drove us out of our course, although it was not yet very violent, nor the sea very high. Our little vessel which sailed rather ill, did not work much better; and from my conversations with the captain, I had no reason to conceive a high idea of his skill in navigation. He related to me, for instance, as a very simple event, that the preceding year he had lost, on the coast of SICILY, the vessel, which he then commanded, because, having made a mistake in his reckoning, he thought himself far from the land, at the very moment when she was cast away on it. But his features changed, his voice faltered, and big tears, long-restrained, fell from his eyes, and trickled down the wrinkles with which age had furrowed his face, when he spoke to me of another accident, in the recollection of which he was wholly absorbed. A few years ago his only son, who sailed with him in these same seas of the LEVANT, had, in a heavy gale, been crushed to death

under his eyes, between the vessel and the boat. He was inconsolable at this loss, and his head was really affected by it.

This day there was taken, on the after-part of the vessel's deck, a goat-fucker, a bird which, notwithstanding its incapacity to fly far, and the weakness of its eyes, is not, on that account, the less a roving bird*.

On the 20th, we began to discover the coast of CARAMANIA; we were then tossed about by a very heavy sea, raised by an impetuous and still contrary wind. We continued to stand in for the land, in order to take advantage of the light breezes which blow thence during the night; for a vessel might struggle in the offing, a long time and in vain, against the westerly winds, common in these seas. However, this coast of the part of CARAMANIA, which anciently formed PAMPHYLIA, is safe, according to the seaman's phrase; I mean that it is washed by deep waters, and that ships may range very closely along it, without fear of running aground. It is, in general, elevated, arid, and much broken by numerous interfections; but behind this coast, mountains, clothed with a gloomy green, announced that they are covered with wood. There, in fact, grow vast forests, an important resource for ship-building, and which the Turks neglect or destroy, as it were, for the sake of destruction.

The most eastern cape of the Gulf of SATALIA, anciently ATTALIA, from the name of ATTALUS PHILADELPHUS, king of PERGAMUS, who had there founded a colony, lay ahead of our vessel; we soon saw the little Island of CASTEL-ROSSO, opposite the promontory which bore the name

* *Engoule-vent*. BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux, et *crapaud-volant* des planches enluminées, No. 193, fig. 2.—*Caprimulgus Europæus*. LINN.

of *Sacred*, and the most advanced towards the south of this part of the coast, from which it is scarcely separated. A very good harbour is there open to navigators; but, within it, is a great depth of water, and vessels are obliged to anchor in sixty or eighty fathoms. On the summit of the rock, which forms this island, is a fortified castle; but nothing is to be seen there that has any reference to its present denomination; nothing red appears there; and we may presume, with the learned English traveller Pocock, that this is the island near which there was a road for shipping, and which PLINY calls *ROGE**, a denomination of which has been made, by corruption, in Italian *Rosso*, and *ROUGE* in French †.

A flock of little land-birds, whose species I could not distinguish, skimmed along the surface of the water, directing their course to the south, and, like so many other travelling families of the same class, proceeded to the warm plains of EGYPT, in order to pass there the winter. A considerable flight of crows, likewise come from the lands of CARAMANIA, followed the same direction, but flew at a greater height.

We remarked, and this observation is well known to navigators who frequent these seas, that, along the coast of CARAMANIA, the currents set to the south-west; their impulse was favourable to us, and diminished the action of the westerly wind, which did not quit us during the day. However, it had lost much of its strength; from the morning of the 22d the sea had fallen, and the different aspects of the land, which our continual change of situation rendered very diversified, made of our voyage an agreeable excursion. Towards the sea, we also had objects which in-

* Lib. viii. cap. xxxv.

† Pocock's Travels, book iv. chap. i.

interrupted its tirefome fameness: fome vessels were failing near ours, and in the midst of them rose, like a floating mountain, a caravel belonging to the Grand Signior: thus are called the ships of war of the Turkish navy; their elevation above the water is excessive; their stern is, besides, of a disproportionate height. This structure, which gives great hold to the wind even on the hull of the vessel, occasions her to be difficult to manage, and exposes her to make considerable lee-way, as well as to all the violence of the shocks of a heavy sea: in an action, the enemy's shot find a greater surface to strike; the vessel is a heavy sailer, and not sure in stays; added to this, the rigging is incomplete and confounded; the artillery, entirely of brass, is composed of pieces of different calibres, which makes it tedious and difficult to serve them, and the gun-decks, being always lumbered, likewise clog a service, which the difference of the weight of metal necessarily renders confused. From such great defects in the construction and rigging of the Turkish men of war, and even the nature of the wood with which they are built, it is easy to remark the infancy or rather the barbarism of navigation.

And the men who conduct these shapeless masses, are also the most ignorant in the world. There are few among them who are familiarly acquainted with the use of the compass, who know how to find and mark their route on a chart, who are capable of observing the altitude of the sun above the horizon, when it passes the meridian, in order to ascertain the latitude; nor is there one who has any idea of geography. It may be remembered that, in the course of the last war between the Russians and the Turks, it was impossible to persuade the latter that the Russian fleets could reach CONSTANTINOPLE, by another route than by the BLACK SEA. In vain was pointed out to them on the chart the route which brought ships from the BALTIC into the ARCHIPELAGO; the divan, in
which

which sat the high admiral himself, persisted in considering the thing as impracticable; and it was not till the enemy's fleet arrived in the seas of TURKEY, that the possibility of this voyage began to obtain credit.

Accordingly shipwrecks, accidents of every sort, frequently happen in the very confined course of voyages so ill-directed; and if some of the mariners display more capacity or experience, these are not Turks; they are natives of BARBARY or Greeks. The latter furnish all the pilots to the Ottoman navy, and, among the modern Greeks, are discovered the descendants of those who were the masters of the Romans in the art of navigation. But, whatever may be their dispositions, and even their long and ancient practice in the carrying-trade, they can by no means be considered as skilful seamen, and they are deficient in instruction, without which it is impossible to become so.

Yet to their hands were intrusted almost all the merchant-ships belonging to the Turks; and the latter had no great confidence in them; independently of the fear with which they were inspired by the Maltese armaments, they almost always preferred loading their goods on board European vessels; the government itself also gave a preference to foreign shipping, particularly in regard to supplying the capital with provisions, an object on which the ministry have always had their eyes, because when it happens to fail, insurrections and misfortunes spread in a tumultuous and frequently-agitated city.

However, the Turks, instructed by the ill fortune of a war disastrous to their navy, made, within these few years, some efforts for extricating it from its rude infancy; in dock-yards, under the direction of skilful French builders, drier and sounder wood was employed in constructing ships on a

more advantageous scale. The court of VERSAILLES made a present to that of CONSTANTINOPLE of a ship of the line and of several frigates, with the use of which, in fleets, the Turks were unacquainted; while French engineers established schools of navigation and cannon-founderies. Such policy could originate only in improvident minds; the very flourishing trade, which enriched the French in the LEVANT, had no other basis than the ignorance and pusillanimity of the Turks: by instructing them to dispense with foreign aid, to ascend to the rank of enlightened nations, was to teach them to do without us; it was to pave the way to the ruin of our commerce, and to prepare for us a formidable enemy in a people who, till then, had nothing to oppose to us but weakness and inexperience.

The rage for setting ourselves up as instructors to foreign nations, a rage specious from an appearance of greatness and generosity, and which, in reality, is but the fruit of a false philosophy and of erroneous combinations, has frequently become fatal to us; and to go no farther than the example with which the Ottomans furnish us of this truth, can it be supposed that, at the present day, they would have ventured to declare against us a maritime war, in which they display remarkable activity, had they not been instructed, in our own school, in the art of fighting us? It is to our lessons alone that they owe the success which they have had against us, rather than to the advice and assistance of other nations, which would never have been able to derive any advantage from this, had it not been taught long ago to know its strength and to make use of it.

The presentiment of what has happened in our days had not escaped the genius of a great philosopher, who, under the agreeable and light mask of pleasantry, knew how to disguise and present truth, and the criticism of the follies of governments. The reader may recollect those lines of

VOLTAIRE, in which he answers a bookseller who offers him a new work on military tactics:

- “ *Allez, de Belzébuth détestable libraire,*
 “ *Portez votre tactique au chevalier de Tott,*
 “ *Qui fait marcher les Turcs au nom de Sabaoth;*
 “ *C'est lui qui de canons couvrant les Dardanelles,*
 “ *A tuer les chrétiens instruit les infidèles*.*”

But in vain does Philosophy raise her voice; she is not, in general, heard but by those whose power is limited to the practice of her precepts in obscurity, and who have no influence in public affairs. It is not that people do not often borrow her language, and endeavour to dress themselves in her livery; but every thing is confined to sterile declamation, and deceitful appearances; and as, in these latter times, true liberty was never more misunderstood than since it was incessantly talked of, philosophy is likewise in every mouth, and is seldom reduced to action. A dark and wavering policy supplies her place: yet history represents to us the latter as a powerful weapon in the hands of Ambition, when it is wished to sport with the fate of nations, and tear human nature to pieces†.

On the 22d, towards the evening, a multitude of fishes of the small species of tunney, which the French seamen of the MEDITERRANEAN call

* ATTEMPTED IN ENGLISH.

Vender of books, detestable as hell,
 To Chevalier de Tott thy tactics sell,
 That vile artificer of murd'rous work,
 The war's whole art exposing to the Turk,
 That infidels may learn to guard their shore,
 And bathe their impious hands in christian gore.

Translator.

† This was written before the 18th Brumaire.

palamide

*palamide** (bonito), appeared all at once near the ship; they divided with extreme rapidity the surface of the waves, which they caused to bubble, and they darted sometimes out of the water by quick and tumultuous leaps; these sudden passages of fishes, swimming in close columns, are, in the eyes of navigators, a certain presage of bad weather. In fact, the sky was charged with vapours, and the horizon began to be covered with clouds, which, to the north-west, were intersected by some vivid and repeated flashes of lightning. The captain, faint and trembling, told me that it was uncommon to sail in these seas, without encountering some violent storm; he added that, the year before, he had been caught in a gale of wind, which had put him in the greatest danger. In consequence, he ordered several sails to be taken in, although the weather was yet very fine, and employed some precautions which were not attended with great success.

After having exhorted my timid skipper to courage and vigilance, I went to bed and fell into a sound sleep. But on the 22d, at two o'clock in the morning, I was awakened by a great noise and by cries of "*The ares, the ares! Cut! cut away!*" I sprang on deck, and I saw that, notwithstanding his alarms and precautions, the captain had not the less suffered himself to be surprised by a very heavy squall, which, bursting all at once on the vessel, still pressed with more sail than she could carry, had overpowered her to such a degree that she was almost half under water, and on the point of being entirely buried in the waves. We contrived to right her, by cutting some of the running rigging and splitting a sail; a few moments more, and we should have been swallowed up. I complimented the captain on his skill, and returned to my bed, fully

* *Scomber pelamis*.—LINN.

promising

promising myself not to make a long voyage, under the guidance of such seamen.

In the morning, we found ourselves near RHODES; a fresh breeze from the north-west and a heavy sea prevented us from following our route. Obligated to ply to windward with a bad vessel, we laboured a great deal without gaining any way; the same obstacles only continuing to increase, the captain, tired of making useless efforts, determined to enter the harbour of RHODES, where we anchored on the 24th, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

I observed that the coast of CARAMANIA, from CASTEL-ROSSO to the entrance of the Gulf of MACRI, is less elevated than that which is to the eastward of this island; but it is equally perpendicular, divided by large ravines, and of a rock white and arid.

The caravel, of which we had not lost sight, made sail in order to enter the Gulf of MACRI, where she found an anchorage more suitable than that of RHODES. This great bight is opposite to the city of RHODES, and to the east of it; the ancients called it *GLAUCUS SINUS*, from the name of the river *GLAUCUS*, which discharges its waters into it. A town of CARIA, of which PLINY has made mention*, has given it its present denomination, which the navigators of PROVENCE disfigure by that of *MEGRE*, *Golfe de la MEGRE*. At the head of this gulf are discovered some very fine remains of antiquity, in the ruins of the ancient town of *TELMISSUS*. M. DE CHOISSEUL-GOUFFIER has described and caused to be drawn some parts of them in his superb work on GREECE†. In it are to be seen the

* *Glaucumque versus amnem Lagusa, Macris, Didyma.*

† *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce.*—Vol. i. page 116 and following.

magnificent fragments of a theatre and some funeral monuments that attest the grandeur and opulence of TELMISSUS, which time and the Turks have converted into heaps of rubbish.

The Gulf of MACRI affords to shipping excellent havens, capable of containing fleets. There are some very retired, which were frequented by a few vessels concerned in the *caravane* or carrying-trade, during the three winter months when navigation in the ARCHIPELAGO is slack, and more dangerous. There, they passed the bad season in full security; the crews were employed in refitting the vessels, and in cutting wood, with which they loaded them in order to convey it to places where it was wanted, and where they sold it. This wood cost only the trouble of felling it; the finest trees were at the disposal of the first comer; and I have been always astonished that FRANCE never thought of procuring timber for ship-building in these great insulated forests, the preservation of which no one superintended. These solitary winter-retreats were not without amusements; the abundance and variety of game and fish chequered the pleasure of shooting and fishing, and the resources of the table; on the other hand, no interruption was to be apprehended on the part of the inhabitants; and this is not a trifling advantage in a country where men are the most dangerous of all the living beings that can be met with.

CHAPTER VII.

Vice-consul of Rhodes.—Consuls in the Levant.—Bad policy of the French government towards the Turks.—Island and city of Rhodes.—Rats.—Dock-yards.—Colossus of Rhodes.—Statues.—Climate and fertility of the island.—Its names.—Comparison of its former state with its present situation.

MORE fatigued by the melancholy solitude of my little vessel than by the inconveniences which I had experienced, I hastened to quit her as soon as the anchor was dropped in the harbour of RHODES. I presented myself at the house of the French Vice-consul, the only one of the nations of EUROPE who resided in the island. He did not live in the city of RHODES, but took up his residence, without the walls of the town, in a small Greek village, which may be considered as a suburb. At M****s, I experienced the most polite reception and civilities beyond those which routine has consecrated, and which, nevertheless, travellers do not always meet with. We see but too frequently the man to whom the government intrusts some authority in foreign countries, him above all who is blinded by self-love to such a degree as to persuade himself that he changes his nature, and is no longer the same man, as soon as he gets into place, put on a cold and disgusting hauteur, which he takes for the becoming, but affable, tone of dignity; fear the approach of the observer sufficiently clear-sighted to perceive his folly and at times something worse; in short, put into play a multitude of little springs, among which incivility and want of respect are the most powerful in the eyes of the delicate traveller, in order to keep him at a distance; and, as I have

heard some of them say, to get rid of troublesome inquiries. Jealous, besides, of the information that an enlightened observer gathers, in countries which the greater part of the persons of whom I am speaking did no more than inhabit; conceiving that observations of every kind of which most of them were incapable, ought, like the official concerns of their administration, to remain an affair of office, and be transmitted but by them alone, they employed their influence to create him obstacles and to thwart him in his projects.

These reflections, which my meeting with proud men, though with so few motives for being so, had suggested to me in the LEVANT and in the colonies, did not occupy my mind at RHODES. A friend to the sciences, M*** honoured and loaded with civilities those who cultivated them, and his zeal could be compared only to the amiable hospitality, which he took a pleasure in exercising towards them. He employed his leisure hours in collecting various articles of curiosity, which he took great care to send to FRANCE to the learned societies; a somewhat considerable number of medals, both of the Isle of RHODES and of CARAMANIA, had been acquired by him and addressed to the Academy of Belles Lettres of PARIS; and that company had charged M. DACIER with their correspondence with M***. It was to be regretted that his education in some way was not always equal to his good will; he had, for instance, singular notions of natural history. Whatever I could say to him, he considered salamanders, common in his island, as incombustible animals, and able to live in fire. His cook had found one of them, he assured me, in the middle of the hottest brazier, as in its natural element: he took a delight in shewing it to me, preserved in spirits of wine; and his prepossession was so strong, that he did not notice that the reptile had its feet burnt. He insisted too that I should take charge, for the cabinet of natural history, of a piece of stone, the form of which made him believe that

that

that it was a very extraordinary human petrification; his persuasion, in this respect, was so complete, that, in a memorandum annexed to the present, he expressed his wish that some skilful hand might take off the first stony cover, under which he did not doubt that there would be discovered the integuments, the glands, the fibres, and all the most delicate parts of living nature.

These trifling mistakes, which we should not have taken the trouble to remark in other persons less animated with a love for the sciences, became, in some measure, respectable in M***, because they were a proof of his wish to render himself useful in every line; but that in which he distinguished himself most, was the exercise of his functions. Not one of the consuls in the LEVANT had acquired a more deserved consideration on the part of the commanders of French ships of war; not one had more generally gained the respect and confidence of the captains of our merchant-vessels. He had frequently to struggle in favour of the latter against the *Nazir*, or intendant of the navy, who commanded at RHODES, in the absence of the pacha. This Turkish officer, an ill-disposed man and an enemy of the Europeans, sought every opportunity of vexing them. The French vessels which put into RHODES, were often the object of the extortions of the greedy Mussulman, as well as of M***'s courageous energy in defending them. This is a justice, which all the persons who took any interest in the trade of the LEVANT, felt a pleasure in rendering to him; and my worthy and unfortunate friend, the respectable and feeling D'ENTRECASTEAUX in particular, who, during his different cruises in the ARCHIPELAGO, had been witness of the exaggerated claims of the *Nazir* and of M***'s bold resistance, frequently spoke of the latter in the most honourable terms, and lamented his ill success in not obtaining reparation for the outrages which the French experienced at RHODES.

D'ENTRECASTEAUX had, on some occasions, joined his complaints to those of the consul; but it was to no purpose, and they produced only a dry and haughty letter, bordering on impertinence, from the French ambassador at CONSTANTINOPLE. M*** received it at the time when I was at RHODES, and he was so mortified at it, that he, from that moment, resolved to resign a post which he lost all hopes of occupying honourably, and in which he must have been long regretted.

Such was the conduct of the French government in TURKEY; it there shewed itself complaisant to excess, and tolerant even to meannesses. It made nothing of abandoning its delegates, when, penetrated with their duties and the importance of their functions, they displayed any firmness. The Turks were become so habituated to this pusillanimous condescension, that it was not uncommon to see them break out against the French in the most serious excesses, which remained unpunished. The assassination of our consul at ALEXANDRIA was not revenged; nor was more satisfaction obtained respecting the two French interpreters, who, in the exercise of their functions, were delivered up, in SYRIA, to the horrible punishment of the bastinado on the soles of the feet; and one of whom expired under the blows, and the other was deprived, for the rest of his days, of the power of walking*. A thousand other outrages have been likewise unpunished; and the protection which the French enjoyed in TURKEY was rather the effect of the good will of the Turks than of the vigour of the French government.

Our ambassadors at CONSTANTINOPLE paid little attention to the complaints which reached them from all parts of the LEVANT: they

* I have given the particulars of these crimes in my *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt*, vol. i. page 119 and following.

took good care not to disturb their own tranquillity, and to expose their own dignity, by importuning the Ottoman ministers with partial remonstrances; these remained in oblivion, as did they who addressed them under oppression and injustice. Like the envoys to the other powers, confining themselves to the sole politics of courts, the French ambassadors at CONSTANTINOPLE wished also to appear occupied only by politics, in a country where there are none; and, in order to affect to give themselves up entirely to an imaginary labour, they had for a long time been soliciting the establishment of a general consul, who, residing in the capital of the Turkish empire, might rid them of commercial affairs, which they disdained.

And this haughty indifference, so prejudicial to the interests of the nation, was not always peculiar to the former delegates. Some consuls, of the number of those who, as VOLTAIRE said, thought themselves Roman consuls, set up too for agents in diplomatic affairs, although, by their institutions, they were agents in commerce. They considered as beneath them honourable and useful functions, in order to create for themselves frivolous and imaginary ones: they assumed a tone of dignity and importance, which, in the eyes of many people, are the equivalents of merit, and they converted themselves into ambassadors. I saw, at ALEXANDRIA, a consul, who, in the last war against the English, did not fail to notify the military events which came to his knowledge, through old gazettes, to the *Serdar*, the Mamalûk who commanded there, and who was absolutely ignorant that war had broken out in EUROPE, and even that there existed any difference between the French and the English, whom he alike confounded and despised under the name of *Franks*, and not unfrequently under that of *dogs*. As soon as he was informed of the first hostilities, this same consul issued an ordinance, by which he forbade five or six French factors settled at ALEXANDRIA, to hold any communication

cation with two or three English factors who were likewise there, or even to speak to them. Thus, in a moment, he destroyed the old and necessary intimacy which reigned on a foreign and desolate land, between a small number of men sharing the same anxieties, the same dangers, and having no recreation and diversion but in parties, which, though formed by subjects of inimical governments, presented only a society of friends.

Accordingly, with the exception of a small number of consuls who still distinguished themselves by extensive knowledge, and by a worthy exercise of their functions, it was lamentable to see the interests of commerce, that is, one of the most certain sources of national prosperity, consigned to ignorant and unexperienced hands. Under the reign of LOUIS XIV. a period when our commercial operations in the LEVANT were more flourishing, our privileges more extensive, and the French more respected in TURKEY, the consuls who resided there were taken from the class of merchants, better qualified than any others to give to commerce a strong impulse, and to direct its concerns with greater success. Indeed, such choices, the custom of which the Dutch have preserved, were far preferable to those of giddy youths sent from PARIS, under LOUIS XVI. to scandalize the sea-port towns in the LEVANT by their ignorance and inutility. The greater part of the old consuls, whose long experience, in a country where nothing can supply its place, became, as well as old services, incontestable motives for being continued, had been replaced by men no less strangers to trade than to the customs of the Orientals; by men among whom we might in vain have looked for other titles to the place which they occupied, than the favour which had placed them in it; by men, in short, who were eaten up by the foolish vanity of considering themselves and of acting as ambassadors.

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Thence it happened that, in order to compensate for the ignorant indifference of people of acknowledged incapacity, local affairs remained in the hands of the droguemans, or interpreters attached to the consulates. These useful men, among whom I have known some very estimable ones, were, from their infancy, born or bred at CONSTANTINOPLE, where national energy grew weak, and where they contracted the habit of dreading the Muffulmans. Clothed like the Turks, and become, as it were, foreigners to their country by their manners and their connexions, they introduced, in their concerns with the men in power, the uneasy timidity of persons subjected to oriental despotism; the quivering accents of weakness were frequently substituted to the tone of dignity; and on those occasions in which it was necessary to speak with firmness, they frequently employed nothing but humble representations. What idea could the Turks form of a government which expressed itself no otherwise than by weak and trembling organs? Thus it is that FRANCE daily lost her credit and consequence in TURKEY, that breaches of respect and justice were accumulated, and that the way was paved to the entire loss of her influence and commerce.

If, among the agents in the LEVANT, there were any who, penetrated with the importance of their functions and the extent of their duties, employed all their means to support the honour of the flag of FRANCE, and the interest of her trade, not by the barren exterior of shew and ostentation, but by a conduct at once wise and firm, respect without servility, a scrupulous attention to avoid every thing that might displease the authorities near which they were placed, and give them umbrage, yet at the same time not to suffer any infringement on the rights fixed by treaties; the latter, I say, contenting themselves with being useful without pomp, and with rendering important services without knowing the art of

of making the most of them, remained without advancement, and, in general, sickened by disgust, like the respectable consul at RHODES.

This Island of ASIA, which the observations of M. CHAZELLES place in latitude $36^{\circ} 26'$, is much longer than it is broad; its greatest length, in a direction from north to south, is about twelve leagues; it is but six in breadth, and its circuit is commonly estimated at forty-four leagues. Its form is nearly triangular, whence it obtained the name of *TRINACRIA*, which it bore in former times, with a great many others.

The city which bears the same name of RHODES, and which is the capital of the island as well as the chief seat of its government, is situated to the north-east. It is fortified, and its ramparts partake of the state of neglect and decay of every thing that is in the hands of the Turks. But proud recollections are attached to them, and will preserve them eternally in the memory of mankind; they will, to the latest posterity, be a testimony of what valour can achieve against the most formidable forces, valour which duty and a sense of honour alone inspired, and which was neither sullied by the ambition of conquests, nor the allurements of the spoils of the vanquished. It was on this theatre of glory that VILLIERS DE L'ÎLE ADAM, loaded with years and with the palms of heroism, and who, to be one of the most renowned generals in the world, wanted no more than the command of a large army, inspiring a handful of combatants already multiplied by their own courage, long checked the attacks and efforts of the victorious arms of the proud SOLIMAN. History has transmitted to us the unheard-of prodigies which rendered illustrious the defence of RHODES. SOLIMAN's triumph, which cost him a hundred thousand of his best troops, was at least not profaned by acts of atrociousness and barbarity; and he gave not the example of the abominable cruelty, which, in contempt of solemn conventions, the lieutenant

of

of one of his successors, a warrior who knew only how to be ferocious, exercised, at the capture of FAMAGUSTA, towards its valiant defender. The Ottoman prince was acquainted with all the value of courage; he understood how to appreciate it, and pay it homage even in his enemies: he loaded the grand master VILLIERS DE L'ILE ADAM with attention and deference, and endeavoured to make him forget the blow which the fate of arms had just given him.

Abandoned by the rest of EUROPE, the knights of the order of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM were forced to evacuate RHODES, and carry to MALTA the remnant of their own body, which had escaped from the sword of the Mussulmans; there, they acquired fresh claims to the admiration of future ages; there, their heroism was a long time maintained by a crowd of glorious actions. But the forgetfulness of respectable, yet degenerated institutions, an empty show of obedience to old customs, and a frivolous vanity, assumed the place of a noble and just pride; licentiousness, that powerful mean of destruction to ancient institutions, which time itself had respected, changed the face of an association whose brilliant career reckoned a great number of years of glory; and, at the expiration of a few days of irresolute defence, it annihilated itself, by giving up the last asylum of its honourable existence to an army much less numerous, but, indeed, much more formidable than that of SOLIMAN.

In several places of the city of RHODES are still to be seen marks of the ancient possession of the order of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM; a long street there preserves the name of *RUE DES CHEVALIERS*; it is perfectly straight, and formed of old houses, on which remain the armorial bearings of the members of the order. Some of these buildings still exhibit the arms of the Pope; and it is rather astonishing that the Turks, consummate masters in the infernal art of destruction, have respected

these emblems of the sovereignty of the catholic pontiff whom they hold in abhorrence, because they consider him as the natural and irreconcilable enemy of their religion. However, we cease to be surprised at this sort of inconsistency in the actions of the Mussulmans, when we have seen them, in our days, fly to arms, and take a very active part in a war, one of the motives of which is the re-establishment of the court of ROME and of the order of MALTA.

The ancient church of ST. JOHN is become the principal mosque; the hospital has been transformed into public granaries, and the palace of the grand master, falling into ruins, is almost entirely deserted. The harbour itself has, in a manner, changed its face; it no longer is that basin, whose deep waters afforded a commodious shelter to ships of every size; no longer are those quays enlivened by all the activity of a flourishing trade. It is now little frequented, except by Greek boats, and by a few merchant-vessels which put in there; it is half choked up, and ships of war are obliged to cast anchor without, where they are but indifferently protected from the winds and waves by some points of land and some shoals. The entrance of the harbour is defended, on the one side, by a square tower, constructed by a grand master of the order; inscriptions and other marks recall to mind the period of its foundation; the Turks still call it *St. JOHN's Tower*, although the Greeks have changed this name into that of *St. NICHOLAS*, more generally adopted in the LEVANT. On the other side, is a tower not so high, nor so strong, which is named *St. ANGELO's* or *St. MICHAEL's Tower*. The harbour is as if divided into two by a small mole, which projects within it, and forms an enclosure, into which boats alone can enter, and which, on that account, is called *Boat-harbour*.

Independently of the large harbour, there was another on each side; the one was the harbour for the gallies, where they can no longer enter at this

this day; the other is choked up, and almost entirely dry. Every thing is destroyed, every thing is annihilated under a government which knows only how to enjoy, or rather to abuse the present, and to which the most simple calculations of foresight are unknown.

In the harbour of RHODES, I learnt how sailors contrive to get rid of rats that are troublesome, and to make them pass to their neighbours. Our vessel was full of these gnawing animals; they there occasioned considerable havock, and devoured or spoilt the provisions. A Greek bark, loaded with apples, came and cast anchor near us. Our sailors, without making the smallest noise, ran out to her, during the night, a hawser or cable, and then drew it tight, so that it might serve as a bridge to the rats: the latter, attracted by the smell of the apples, of which they are very fond, passed, without the exception of a single one, into the bark, and there gave the Greeks reason to curse their neighbour.

Yards for ship-building, which might, with so much reason, be called workshops of dilapidation, are established at RHODES for the Ottoman navy: the timber which is employed there is taken from the fine and vast forests of CARAMANIA, and even from those of the island; but the latter, cut down without reserve, are almost exhausted, and now afford but feeble resources. Ships are built with so much slowness, and the choice of the timber which is introduced into their construction is so bad, that it has happened more than once to see them half rotten before they are entirely finished. The builders scarcely employ any other wood than fir, which, when it is cut down in a proper season, and preserved with the necessary precautions, is almost incorruptible. The pines, which, in this country, are felled in January and in August, are reckoned to unite the best qualities: but the Turks, paying no regard to this observation, and caring little to make for their sovereign works of lasting nature, cut

down the trees at all times, at the period when the sap is rising as well as when it is at a stand; they likewise indifferently make use of green wood, full of sap and resin, which bends, warps, and soon decays; so that before a ship is launched, her ribs and timbers are frequently rotten, without any attempt being made to replace them, or without the building and equipment of a vessel, whose frame is already decayed, being discontinued.

The greatest disorder reigns in the administration of these dock-yards; all those who are employed in them vie with each other in plundering; the head men, in particular, are very well versed in the art of acquiring, by their robberies, multiplied to excess, considerable riches, which, most times, become in their turn the object of the cupidity and plunder of men greater than themselves. This vast gang of public robbers, devouring each other successively, is one of the attributes of the Ottoman government, if we may thus call the feat of disorder: this is one of the political vices which preys on it with the most effect, and which, for a long time past, has been paving the way to its ruin; it is inherent in every reign of confusion: and we have seen very recently that it was not necessary to go to TURKEY to meet with it in all its energy.

Who has not heard of the famous colossus, one of the seven wonders of the world, which, being placed, it is said, at the entrance of the harbour of RHODES, was tall enough for ships to pass between its legs? According to PLINY*, this was a monument which commanded admiration. It was the production of an artist, born at LINDUS, one of the towns of the Island of RHODES, and a pupil of LYSIPPUS, a statuary of great celebrity. Other historians affirm that he only began it, and that, having

* Hist. Nat. lib. xxxiv. cap. vii.

killed himself, another sculptor of the same country completed the work. Be this as it may, twelve years were consumed in erecting this colossus. Its height was seventy cubits, which is about one hundred and five of our feet; some authors have carried it to eighty cubits, or one hundred and twenty feet, and even to one hundred and fifty feet. At the expiration of fifty-six years, it was thrown down by an earthquake; and prostrate as it lay, it still appeared a prodigy. Few men could clasp the thumb of this gigantic statue; each of its fingers was larger than most statues: its different parts, when broken, shewed in their inside vast cavities, some of which were filled with stones of an immense size, intended to add to its weight, and give it greater stability*.

No one thought of raising again so heavy a mass; it remained extended on the ground near nine hundred years, and it was not till the year 672, that it was carried off, after having been taken to pieces†. Almost all authors agree that it required nine hundred camels to remove its remains; and the load of each camel being estimated at eight hundred pounds, it results that the weight of the colossus was near seven hundred and twenty thousand of our pounds‡. All the bronze of which it was formed was shipped and carried away by the Arabs, when they made themselves masters of the city.

However, the common opinion which represents the colossus of RHODES at the entrance of the harbour, and ships passing in full sail between its

* PLINY, at the place quoted.

† CONST. Porphyrog. *de Administr. Imperii*, cap. xxi. and xxii.

‡ *Memoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions et Belles Lettres*, vol. xxiv. page 360. Reflections on the chapter of the 34th book of PLINY, in which mention is made of works in bronze, by Count CAYLUS.

extended legs, is erroneous, as several of the learned, and M. DE CAYLUS, in particular, have very clearly proved: they, with much greater probability, place this monument of the power of the Rhodians at some distance from the sea*.

This enormous statue was not the only one that attracted attention in the city of RHODES; PLINY reckons a hundred other colossuses not so large, which rose majestically in its different quarters†. Besides these, here were to be seen five others, the work of BRIAXIS, and representing divinities. This extraordinary quantity of colossal figures, assembled within the walls of a single city, had obtained the Rhodians the surname of *Colossians*. If we recall to mind that common statues were here so extremely numerous, that the ancients compared their number to that of the inhabitants; if we remark too that the most ancient school of painting, some positive traces of which are to be discovered among the Greeks, was established in the Island of RHODES, in the time of ANACREON‡; that one of the most famous painters of antiquity, PROTOGENES of CAUNUS, here painted his master-pieces, we shall form an idea of the degree of splendour and activity to which the fine arts were here carried; and if we cast our eyes on the state of depopulation, ruin, and wretchedness, in which the present town languishes, we shall have the measure of the mischief that can be effected by barbarous and despotic ignorance.

But the colossus the most distinguished, that which was named the *Colossus of the Sun*, had been erected in honour of that deity. The whole

* *Mémoire de CAYLUS*, before quoted.

† *Sunt alii minores hoc in eadem urbe colossi centum numero, sed ubicunque singuli fuissent nobilitaturi locum.* PLINY, lib. xxxiv. cap. vii.

‡ PAUW, *Recherches Philosophiques sur les Grecs*, vol. ii. page 94.

island was consecrated to him; one of the most beautiful temples of antiquity had likewise been constructed in honour of him in the capital of the island, and his worship was there as general, as that of VENUS in the Island of CYPRUS. This was the effect of the gratitude of a people, whose territory, according to the general opinion, being inundated by an extraordinary deluge, had owed its desiccation to the rays of the sun*, who also seems to have adopted the island as the temple of his mild influence: there is no day in the year in which he does not appear at least for some moments; and this remark of the ancients† agrees perfectly with the observations of the moderns. M***, who had resided at RHODES for several years, assured me that, whatever were the opakeness and quantity of the clouds, the sun always found means to shew himself at intervals.

An island which the luminary of day favoured in so peculiar a manner, could not fail to be the subject of the praises of the poets; they called it, in their brilliant language, the *daughter of VENUS*, and the *wife of the SUN*. It bore several other names in antiquity; the most remarkable, because it is connected with the nature of the climate and of the soil, is that of *Macaria*, fortunate, which it shared with the Island of CYPRUS. It, nevertheless, surpasses that island, if not by the fertility of the land, at least by its milder and more agreeable temperature. Here the heat is not excessive; here long droughts do not burn the plants, dry up the waters, or cause the inhabitants to suffer. A temperate climate, a pure air, fine springs which at all times supply wants, and are conducive to agreeableness; vallies of a rich and fertile soil, covered by plentiful

* DIODORUS OF SICILY, lib. iv. cap. lvi.

† They said the same thing of *Syracuse*.—See PLINY, lib. ii. cap. lxii. The Island of RHODES, which the sun seemed never to abandon, was distinguished by the epithet of *clear*.

“*Laudabunt alii claram Rhodon.*”

HOR.

harvests,

harvests, and clothed with rich pastures, shaded by trees bearing precious fruits, such as the olive, the orange, and the fig tree, which flowers embellish with their lustre and perfume with their sweet emanations; sloping hills on which the vine is cultivated, or which present to numerous flocks a luxuriant and odoriferous herbage; mountains where grow the most beautiful trees, whose verdure is eternal, would still render it one of the most delightful abodes in the world, did not the iron hand of the Turks efface a part of the colours of this smiling picture. A gloomy nakedness diffuses melancholy over places formerly adorned by the riches of nature and industry; and the men who are called thither by an agreeable and truly happy country, are driven back by the terror inspired by a horde of spoilers. Happiness no longer inhabits a land formerly *fortunate*; and the golden shower, which the poets of antiquity caused to fall there, as an emblem of its riches and brilliant advantages, is converted into a storm of desolation.

The name of the Island of RHODES has exercised the researches and conjectures of etymologists. BOCHART, one of the most indefatigable, building on the name of *OPHIUSA*, that is, *SNAKE ISLAND*, by which the ancients distinguished it on account of the number of those dangerous reptiles with which it was infested, no doubt, when it was first inhabited, says that the Phœnicians also called it *SNAKE ISLAND*, in their language *GESIRAT-RHOD*, this latter word signifying a snake, whence the Greeks afterwards formed the name of *RHODES*, which the island has since preserved. This learned conjecture is not the most natural; and it is more simple, methinks, to derive the name of *RHODES* from that of *RHODOS*, which, in Greek, signifies a *rose*, a flower very common in this country, and whose figure is to be found on the medals of the island, of which it is the emblem.

After

After having lost and several times recovered their liberty, the Rhodians passed under the domination of the Romans. At the time of the decline of the Greek empire, they became the subjects of the Genoese, of the Arabs, of the knights of St. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, and, lastly, the slaves of the Ottomans. This was the term of their glory and of their commerce; and had not history handed down to us proofs of their ancient love for the sciences and fine arts, of the magnificence of their city, of their industry in seconding Nature, who had poured her gifts with such profusion on their territory, of their enterprising activity, and of their skill in navigation, in short, of the great trade of which their island was the centre, no one could suspect, were he now at RHODES, that he was in their island and among their descendants.

CHAPTER VIII.

Ancient cities of the Island of Rhodes.—Ravages of men.—Earthquakes.—Formation of the Island of Rhodes.—Plague.—Inhabitants of the island.—Its happy position, its harbours, its productions.—Bartavelles or Greek partridges.—Partridges.—Turtles.—Picture of a beautiful solitude.—Quails.—Woodcocks.—Fishes.—Sponges.—Coral.

THE city of RHODES is at this day the only one in the island; at very ancient periods there were three others, which no longer existed in the time of PLINY*. The most considerable of these three cities, the country of CHARES, who made or at least began the famous colossus consecrated to the sun, was called LINDUS, and contained a magnificent temple, dedicated to MINERVA. Some vestiges of it still remain, with the name of LINDO, in a hamlet situated nearly in the middle of the east side of the island, and entirely peopled by Greeks: its harbour, by no means spacious, is much frequented by the small craft of the country, which there take in the commodities of the island, and bring thither merchandise from other parts. Accordingly almost all the inhabitants of LINDO are given to commerce, or to the carrying-trade of the neighbouring coasts and islands; they navigate with small fast-sailing vessels which they themselves construct, and to which they give greater solidity than to the ships that come off the stocks of RHODES for the account of the government. A few Lindians also employ themselves in rural labours; but, of all the quarters of the island, that which they inhabit being the least fit for tillage, on account of its stony and uneven nature, culture principally consists of plantations of vines, fig-trees, and others.

* Hist. Nat. lib. xiv.

The second city, which bore the name of *CAMYROS*, was situated on the west coast, almost opposite to *LINDUS*; there no longer exist any traces of it but the name of *CAMYRO*, a Greek village, built on the same spot.

No indication is to be found of the most ancient of these three cities, *JALYSSOS*; it is known only that it was situated on the north coast of the island.

When we review in thought this innumerable multitude of cities and great edifices, which have covered in different places the surface of the earth, and which have been successively effaced, we cannot but yield to the painful sensations excited by the rage of mankind. Monuments which the genius of the arts and the patience of industry erect with so much solidity and slowness, crumble in an instant under the blows of impetuous barbarism, or by the more sudden shocks of the terrible art of war, which delights only in blood and ruins. Man throws down what man builds up; in his mind time is too slow; he anticipates the ravages of ages, for which he seems to envy them; and, in his rage for destruction, he leaves, very far behind him, the most ferocious animals, whose malice he surpasses, by being himself the destroyer of his own species. The partial confusion which violent commotions of the earth sometimes occasion, are not of a very perceptible effect on the map of devastations, if we compare them to the vast extent of ruins with which the hand of man has strewn the surface of the globe: and if history makes mention of the convulsions of nature, which have anciently thrown down edifices in the Island of *RHODES*, war and the fury of superstitious ignorance have, without comparison, there destroyed and overthrown more than time and subterraneous shocks.

Earthquakes were, nevertheless, rather frequent in this island, at the time of its formation, if, indeed, it be true that it issued from the bosom of the waters, as was imagined by the ancients, who considered it as a present from the sea, whence they gave it the name of *PÉLAGIA*, daughter of the sea, in order to preserve the memory of its origin. But its great proximity to the continent, the advanced cape which stretches out towards the coast, and which appears to have formed the junction between the island and the main land, lead me to presume, with some degree of probability, that they have been united, and that the island was formerly no more than a great promontory of *ASIA MINOR*. Be this as it may, the Island of *RHODES* is no longer in our days agitated by earthquakes; and it would be an abode equally safe and agreeable, if two other scourges still more dreadful, the plague and Ottoman despotism, did not convert it into a place of fear and desolation.

The Turks, who daily live and die victims of the plague, carry the germs of it wherever they land. No precaution is taken to prevent its communication, or to stop its progress. A person infected with the plague penetrates, with as much liberty as the most healthy man, into every part of the empire, and no one thinks of avoiding his company. From this circumstance, it is not astonishing that the Island of *RHODES*, like all the other countries of *TURKEY*, is exposed to the most terrible of contagions, which cannot be attributed to its climate, one of the most wholesome and most agreeable in the world.

I shall, on this occasion, mention a preservative against the plague, which some Italian monks of the order of *ST. FRANCIS*, known in the *LEVANT* by the appellation of *Fathers of the Holy Land*, communicated to me at *RHODES*, where they had a *hospice**, and served as chaplains to

* A place of hospitable entertainment for travellers.

the French vice-consul, for this magistrate was the only one there of his nation; his physician even was a Greek of the country. These monks affirmed, from their own experience, and that of their brethren established in many other countries of the EAST, that an infallible mean of guarding against the plague, consists in swallowing, every morning, fasting, a glass of one's own urine, in which the juice of a lemon has been expressed. This remedy, or to make use of the term consecrated in medical language, this simple and easy prophylactic, the efficacy of which the experience of some men, forced by their profession to live in the midst of contagion, appears to warrant, deserves more confidence than the complicated recipes and the long indications of diet, prescribed by physicians, to whom books have served as observations, and a theory often doubtful, as experience.

With the exception of the city of RHODES itself, which is almost entirely inhabited by Turks, who would render it an abode insupportable to any others but themselves, the population of the island is composed of Greeks, descendants of those famous Rhodians, whose valour, ardent love of liberty, taste for the sciences and fine arts, skill in navigation, and activity in commerce, have been celebrated in the annals of antiquity. The long tyranny under which they have been enslaved, has checked the transports of generous souls, and extinguished the torch of genius, and the fiery ardour of glory and riches: the Greeks of RHODES have preserved, as it were, no more than the shadow of the great energy of their ancestors, a few traces of which are scarcely to be found in their fondness for navigation and traffic, which most of them still follow with some success. They are still, like their forefathers, bold and skilful navigators, able ship-builders, industrious traders; and if the beautiful countries of Asiatic GREECE were destined to change their masters, it would be at RHODES, more than in any other quarter, that we should meet with the powerful succours of courage, of the spirit of liberty, and of intelligence.

Placed

Placed on the route which vessels from the north of GREECE must hold in order to repair to SYRIA and EGYPT, the Island of RHODES would, in other hands, become the general emporium of a very considerable commerce; its ports would afford places of shelter and refreshment: and its proximity to the coasts would render it mistress of part of the trade of ASIA, as it would participate in that of EGYPT and of the other neighbouring countries. A situation so happy could not have remained useless but under the government of the Turks; under any other, it would become a fertile source of prosperity.

While its position, its vicinity to a long extent of coasts and numerous islands, and the good quality of the timber which its forests furnish for ship-building, necessarily make the people of RHODES a people of navigators, several harbours invite thither commerce, and multiply and facilitate its means. Capes, which render the figure of the island very irregular, form roadsteads, havens, and bays, in which vessels can deposit and receive their loadings, supply themselves with excellent water and provisions of every sort, and take shelter, secure from the impetuosity of the winds and waves.

One of the principal of these harbours, next to the port of RHODES, which, half choked up, is waiting for masters and repairing labours, is that of LINDO; of which I have already spoken. Near the cape of this name, and at the entrance of the gulf, is a rock which is considerably elevated above the surface of the sea. On the same east coast of the island, and to the north of LINDO, is another gulf more open, with a bay less safe, between Cape PARADI and Cape TENDA; and to the south, is found SAN NICOLO Bay, whose entrance is divided by a shoal somewhat extensive. Farther to the south, is Cape SAN GIOVANNI, a low point, off which an islet bears a tower that served as a light-house to navigators.

vigators. The most considerable and the most southern promontory of the island, is that to which has been given the name of Cape *TRANQUILLO*; it forms, with Cape *SAN GIOVANNI*, a narrow and deep gulf, where ships lie in safety; and, with Cape *CANDURA*, a large bay more open. A shoal, situated to the southward of the entrance of the gulf of Cape *TRANQUILLO*, is not without danger in making the land on this coast. The sea appears to have opened for itself a passage in the promontory of Cape *TRANQUILLO*, and to have separated from it, to the west, two small fragments, sterile islets, which bear the names of *GORDEI* and of *STRONGELO*; and to the south, a more considerable portion, which forms an island, called *SANTA CATHERINA*.

To the west, there are also above Cape *CANDURA* some havens more or less large, more or less secure; and this coast is, in general, sandy, bathed by deep waters, and, according to the seaman's phrase, very safe, that is, free from rocks and shoals, and may be approached without the risk of running aground.

A single river bearing the name of *CANDURA*, which it gives to the cape in whose vicinity it discharges itself into the sea, waters the interior parts of the island; but numerous springs of running water also diffuse fecundity in their meandering course. Although hilly, the soil proves suitable to several sorts of productions. Fine trees, which greedy and improvident cupidity has reduced to a small number, majestically crowned the highest mountains; and the resin of the greater part of them, supplied abundantly the wants of the navy. On the sloping hills, fig-trees, which yield a very large quantity of good fruit, carob-trees, and others both useful and agreeable, grow with facility; the vine also there holds its place, and the wine which is drawn from it, highly extolled by the ancients, on account of its delicacy and its perfume, has preserved something

something of those good qualities, and may still pass for a very good wine, especially when it is made with care. I drank some at M***'s, which was not inferior to the best wine of GREECE. The vallies afford rich pastures, and the plains produce harvests of every sort; but agriculture would be more flourishing there, and occupy a greater extent of ground, if, like every other branch of industry, it had not to bear the obstacles and vexations of an unjust and oppressive administration.

The inhabitants of RHODES have a great taste for gardens. The city and the other habitations are surrounded by orchards, in which are found variety, agreeableness, coolness, and utility; pot-herbs, as well as flowers, are there cultivated with attention.

Stags and other species of game enliven the forests and plains: in the latter, bartavelles or Greek partridges are to be met with in great numbers*. M***, vice-consul at RHODES, kept in a cage a bird of this species; but he was obliged, from time to time, to cut the tip of its bill, which grew so long and crooked, as to prevent the bird from taking its food. No bird, perhaps, bears confinement with greater difficulty than partridges in general; they need, more than any other, open air and a somewhat spacious ground, in order that they may not be restricted in the rapidity and frequency of their excursions: every confined space is unsuitable to them: if they are kept in narrow and covered places, they are attacked by all sorts of indispositions; and, after leading for some time a languishing existence, they soon find death in the very attentions which are lavished on them, and which cannot supply the place of the advantages of a life frequently agitated, but accompanied by all the charms of liberty. The Greek partridge belonging to the vice-consul

* BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Ois. et planche Enluminée, No. 231.—*Tetrao rufus*. LINN.

of RHODES would not have been subject to the excessive prolongation of its bill, which, without foreign and unnatural assistance, would have occasioned it to perish from inanition, had its narrow prison afforded it the means proper for wearing down its point by repeated friction.

Some pretty turtles, of a reddish gray plumage, and with a narrow, black semi-collar, similar to those which I had seen in EGYPT*, frequent the orchards by which the city of RHODES is surrounded, and add to them fresh charms. The motionless flower, however brilliant it may be, attaches and flatters the eye; but it wants life, without which beauty causes only sterile impressions, agreeable indeed, but without vivacity, without movement, like the object that communicates them: every thing is enlivened, on the contrary, when the verdure of the groves serves as an asylum and abode for charming birds, when the flowers are caressed and betrayed alternately by those winged insects, brilliant like them, which know how to touch them, every moment, without tarnishing them, and which themselves appear flying flowers. What sweet emotions do we not experience, when, in the silence of a shaded retreat, clothed with verdure and enamelled with flowers, we find ourselves in the midst of several pairs of the sweetest and most tender birds, which constituted a part of the train of VENUS! Coosings, plaintive and languishing expressions of a burning flame, are heard on all sides; the ear is not offended, and they invite to a soft reverie, the prelude of sensibility. On this tree, two of these birds, which nature and love have united, indulge in the most expressive marks of tenderness; we see them placed near each other, with their necks bent in a contrary direction, seizing each other's bill, with their bills partly open, pushing it back and drawing it forward alternately,

* *Tourterelles à collier du Sénégal.*—BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux étrangers qui ont rapport aux tourterelles, article second.—*Columba vinacea*, LINN.—*Ang.* Collared Senegal turtle.

and in these representations of mutual attack and resistance, quit each other, rejoin each other, and pant with love. On that tree, more lofty and more tufted, and in a nest of downy and mossy leaves, repose the fruits of an ardent love; the mother covers them, and warms them with her body and her wings: they sleep; but she who hatched them, has her head raised, and her look bespeaks her anxiety; she watches, and her restless eyes are directed towards every place around her. One sentiment alone occupies her, and absorbs all her faculties: this is the repose and preservation of the dear objects, which she could not defend, alas! but by her grief. The scene changes at the expiration of a few moments; the mother has quitted the nest, the little ones spread their wings, stand up on their legs as yet unsteady, open their bill with all their might, and by weak, but repeated cries, they announce the joy which they feel: it is the father who arrives, loaded with the provender of the family: he distributes it equally; he then resumes the place of his mate, who does not stray far from a spot where are fixed all her affections, and then only to procure her food, and bring, in her turn, that of her nestlings.

These living images of tenderness and paternal solicitude are lessons more impressive for delicate minds, than those which are imbibed from the best books and the most eloquent discourses: these are affecting examples which Nature displays to our eyes, and which she invites us to follow. Happy, indeed, is he who, simple in his habits, as in his affections, is acquainted with the sweet effusions of love and the occupations more serious, but not less sweet, which accompany a fertile union, the pains, as well as the pleasures of which, are equally felt, equally shared!

Quails, which, in their passage from EUROPE to AFRICA, disperse and stop on several islands, do not rest themselves on that of RHODES; and what proves that the line which those birds traverse, in order to change

the climate, is invariable like the season of their migration, is, that quails have never been seen to arrive at RHODES, although the island is not very distant from their route. But woodcocks pass thither regularly every year, and in considerable numbers. They arrive in November, and their stay lasts about a month. I have also seen these latter birds, which, nevertheless, seem to prefer cold countries, seek at the same period, but in small bodies, a mild winter in the humid plains of LOWER EGYPT.

Fish is very plentiful on the coast of RHODES, which was called the island *abounding with fish*. The sea, which surrounds it, likewise furnishes coral and fine sponges. The land there is rich in fossils of every species, and there the geologist might form a curious and interesting collection.

Beauty and mildness of climate, fecundity of soil, variety and abundance in the necessary or agreeable articles of life, a situation valuable for useful enterprises and a prosperous trade—nothing is wanting to the Island of RHODES, except to be delivered from the Turks, who possess, in so eminent a degree, the fatal talent of converting the most happy abode into a spot to be shunned and dreaded.

CHAPTER IX.

Departure from Rhodes. — Sea-serpent. — Fangri. — Maritime prizes. — Carpathian Sea. — Island of Eleufa. — Phenix. — Porto Cavaliere. — Canal of Rhodes. — Small clouds which announce storms. — Fishes. — Island of Symi. — Divers. — Cape Crio. — Cnidus. — Fishery. — Onions. — Garlic. — Navigation. — Cranes. — Ducks. — Calamary or cuttle-fish. — Arrival at Stancho.

WE might consider ourselves as very fortunate in having put into the harbour of RHODES, on the approach of the storm which arose on the very day that we entered it. We should have had some difficulty to resist it in narrow channels, where the sea is always rough, with a small vessel, ill found and as ill conducted. The bad weather lasted, almost without interruption, during the four days, which the ship remained in the harbour; and if it prevented us from keeping the sea, it permitted me at least to make some excursions into the island, and to sketch the picture of it which I have just presented.

At length, on the morning of the 28th of October, the horizon having cleared up, and the wind subsided, the captain of the polacre dispatched a messenger after me, to some distance from the city, in order to request me to embark in haste; and we sailed out of the harbour, by means of a pleasant breeze from the south-west, which soon forsook us, in order to make room again for a wind equally contrary and impetuous.

A small

A small fishing-boat, which came alongside of our ship, afforded me an opportunity of increasing my stock of provisions; I was the only person that purchased a few fishes; the captain, who but seldom consented to partake of my meals, for fear of being obliged to invite me to his, introduced, into his manner of living, the parsimony, or, to speak more correctly, the stinginess with which the seamen of PROVENCE are pretty generally reproached: cheese, anchovies, and olives, constituted his usual fare, as well as that of his crew.

Among the fishes which I procured, was a muræna, of the species which, in the MEDITERRANEAN, is commonly called sea-serpent, because it has not only the form and the quick and waving movements of serpents, but also the beauty and the variety of colours which adorn the greater part of those reptiles. This name of sea-serpent has been given to several sorts of fishes; and there still reigns some obscurity in their divisions, because the particularities which distinguish them have been confounded, and, in the descriptions which most authors have given of them, they have attributed to some species the characters which belong to others. This has induced me to cause an engraving to be made of the muræna or sea-serpent, which I met with in the canal of RHODES. (See Plate IV. fig. 1). I shall add to it a few notes, which will increase the knowledge already acquired respecting this species of fish, to which the name of *flûte** has likewise been given.

Its head is elongated, compressed on the sides, by no means large, in comparison to the length of the body, and diminishing perceptibly in thickness to the rostrum, which is almost pointed. The opening of the

* See DAUBENTON, *Encyclopédie Méthodique*, histoire naturelle des poisons, article de la *flûte*. *Muræna Helena*.—LINN.

mouth is large; the jaws are flattened throughout their length: a judicious observer has compared them, on account of their form, to the bill of a goose, and this comparison is very just*.

The inside of the jaws is armed with a formidable set of very sharp teeth, of unequal size and different form, some being small and straight, others long, sharper, moveable, and bent towards the bottom of the mouth. All the inside of the upper jaw is furnished with these teeth, which, on its edges, are smaller than in the middle; the under has none but on the edges. It has been asserted that the bite of this *muræna* is venomous, and thence it has been inferred that its flesh is unwholesome; but, if the wounds inflicted by jaws, beset with a multitude of sharp-edged points, be not venomous, they must more certainly occasion cruel pains by the lacerations which these teeth, of various lengths, multiply in the flesh at different depths.

And this apparatus so cutting, which the great voracity of the *muræna* renders still more formidable, has furnished man, ever ingenious in tormenting his fellow-creatures, with a new kind of punishment, forgotten long since, in order to make room for others not less cruel, not less barbarous, and the history of which, the bloody annals of the ferocity of mankind, would be equally curious and revolting. In the time of the Roman emperors, slaves condemned to death were thrown into fish-ponds filled with *murænæ*, where the unhappy beings expired, devoured alive by a great number of those voracious animals, which fastened on every part of their body.

At the extremity of the upper jaw are some appendages or apophyses, short, broad, and fistulous, which WILLUGHBY considers as the organs

* BELON, *di Aquatil.* lib. i. cap. xii.

of hearing*. The eyes are small, and placed on the upper jaw, much nearer to the extremity of that jaw than to the angles of the mouth†; they are covered by a transparent and bluish pellicle, and the pupil is surrounded by an orange-coloured circle. The apertures of the nostrils are placed very near the eyes; another small round opening, near the gills, serves the fish for throwing out the water.

The form of the body of this muræna is nearly that of the eel; it is only shorter, thicker, and more compressed on the sides. It neither has pectoral nor ventral fins. At some distance from the head, begins, on the back, a fin somewhat elevated, which runs along the back, surrounds the tail, and terminates beneath near the anus; this long fin is covered throughout its whole extent by the skin of the body.

The smooth, viscous, and slippery skin of the muræna is very diversified in its colours. The rostrum is blackish at its extremity; the top of the head is of a reddish brown, spotted with yellow. On a ground of a reddish brown, which becomes deeper in approaching the tail, black specks and large yellow spots, mixed with a reddish tinge, are spread on the upper part of the fish; the belly and sides, as far as the aperture of the gills, as well as the lower part of the under jaw, are of a fawn colour, and variegated with brown lines and spots‡.

This

* *Historia Piscium*, lib. iv, sect. ii. cap. i.

† WILLUGHBY, and after him DAUBENTON, have said that the eyes of this muræna are placed in the middle of the distance between the extremity of the rostrum and the angles of the jaws; this is not the case in the species which I am describing.

‡ The following are the principal dimensions of this fish:

		Feet Inches Lines		
Total length	-	3	0	0
of the apophyses of the extremity of the upper jaw	-	0	0	2
				Distance

The number of yellow spots, scattered over the body of this fish, indicated that it was a female. BELON has been the first to observe that the male had but very few spots, while the female was almost entirely covered with them†; and I had had an opportunity of verifying this observation, not only from the individual which I am describing, and which was a female, but also from the examination of several other fishes of this species, which I have seen in the seas of the LEVANT. This female had, in its inside, eggs elliptical and yellow; I also found, in its stomach, a rather large fish, half digested.

The stomach is very capacious; it is gray, and spotted at its orifice with blackish gray; the liver is long and of a red tinged with yellow; the gall-bladder is oval, and attached to the bile-duct; the air-bladder is small, oval, and formed of a very thick membrane; its colour is yellow without, and white within.

The Greeks of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO call this species of *muræna*, *fminaria*; they affirm that it couples with the land-serpent. In our countries, the same thing is said of the eel; but it is certain that the species of the *muræna* and of the eel being composed of males and females, they have no need to seek, on an element which is foreign to

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Distance from the tip of the rostrum to the angle of the jaws	0	2	6
— to the eyes	0	10	0
— to the anus	1	4	3
— to the dorsal fin	0	4	6
— from the eyes to the nostrils	0	0	3
Diameter of the eyes	0	0	4
— of the aperture of the gills	0	0	6
Height of the body	0	2	9
Breadth of the upper jaw, measured before the eyes	0	1	6

† *De Aquatilibus*, lib. i. cap. xii.

them,

them, auxiliaries of that nature, and the individuals of both sexes couple, in the manner of snakes, by closely intertwining with each other.

The flesh of the *fminaria* of the modern Greeks is very white and delicate; but the quantity of short and crooked bones, with which it is filled, renders it troublesome to be eaten. I have been told that the fishermen have the knack of causing all these inconvenient bones to descend to the tail, by strongly squeezing the body of the fish between two small sticks, and of taking them off with the skin.

However, these fishes are very common along the coast of NATOLIA and in the ARCHIPELAGO; they take up their abode in the holes of the rocks. In order to make them come out, the fishermen of the LEVANT make use of *athernos*, a species of very small fishes of which I shall have occasion to speak in the sequel; they chew these raw, and when they have made of them in their mouth a sort of paste, they throw them here and there into the sea, at the places where the edges of the rocks afford retreats to the *murænæ*, which, attracted by the smell of this deceitful food, soon come to the hook. This bait is likewise made use of, in the same countries, for taking conger-eels, which have several affinities of forms and habits to *murænæ*.

If the *muræna* or sea-serpent, whose natural history I have just given, is remarkable for the variety of its colours, the fish of which I am going to speak, and which I likewise found among the numerous produce caught by the boat that came alongside of us on our leaving the harbour of RHODES, is dazzling from the brightest and richest colours. It is the *fangri* of the modern Greeks (*See Plate IV. fig. 2*), a fish of the genus *sparus*, and which, holding the middle place between the sea-bream,

bream†, and the silvery-eyed, red sparus‡, is sufficiently different from both to constitute a separate species, or at least a distinct race, which, according to every appearance, owes its origin to the difference of climate. Gold and purple glitter on its large scales; but, like the fleeting lustre of beauty, which the slightest derangement tarnishes or causes to vanish, this luxury of colours is effaced as soon as the fish is taken out of the element which preserves its life and its splendour; there then remains of it nothing but tints without brilliancy, vestiges which cease to flatter the eye; and if, in hopes of preserving these remains, already so faded, recourse be had to a method the most convenient, but at the same time the least calculated for giving an idea of the tints which distinguish fishes, by plunging the animal into a spirituous liquor, it quite changes colour, and becomes entirely livid.

The head of the fangri is short, high, and very solid; its form indicates great strength in this part, as its strong jaws, armed with sharp-edged teeth, are the sign of its great voracity. The rostrum is obtuse; the lips are thick, fleshy, and moveable; the mouth is small; on the forepart of each jaw are four long, strong, hooked teeth, like the canine teeth of quadrupeds. These teeth stand apart from each other, and have behind them, both above and below, a number of small loose hooks, longer in the upper jaw than in the under one. At the end of these canine teeth, both jaws have, on each side, five other short teeth, broad at their base, and terminating in a point; immediately next to these, stands a double row of teeth, by no means prominent, but broad, in the shape of large tubercles, and which may very well be compared to the grinders of quadrupeds.

† *Sparus pagrus*. LINN.

‡ *Sparus erythrinus*. LINN.

The

The apertures of the nostrils are double, and placed the one before the other, near the anterior part of the eye; that which is the nearest to the eye is oval, much larger, and more rounded than the other. The eyes are very large. The body is shortened; its sides are flattened; the back is convex, and rises very much, especially near the head; the belly is convex, and the extremity of the body little elevated, thick, and slightly rounded; the caudal fin is forked. A fin occupies the whole length of the back; it has twenty-three rays, twelve of which are prickly, and the fourth is the longest of all. The pectoral fins are very long, terminated in a point, and formed of fifteen rays; the pinna ani has eleven rays, the first three of which are bony, and the first is short and thick; lastly, the ventral fins, placed opposite the origin of the dorsal fin, have six rays, the first of which is prickly and terminated by a very fine point, and the second is the largest of all.

The lateral line, which is broad and strongly marked, begins above the aperture of the gills, follows the bend of the back, and terminates at the middle of the base of the caudal fin. The scales, which cover the whole body, as well as the sides and the under part of the head, are broad, large, thin, and very adherent to the flesh, from which it is difficult to detach them.

I have said that this fish is very rich in colours; in fact, its eyes are of a very brilliant brown yellow, with some shades or faint spots of white and orange colour; the top of its head is of a deep reddish brown; the sides of the head, beginning from beneath the eyes, as far as the angles of the jaws, are of a pretty cherry colour; at the anterior angle of the eyes is a large spot of shining gold; the operculæ of the gills are of a gray somewhat reddish, with brilliant reflections of silver and gold; the aperture of the gills is bordered with brown and gold colour; lastly, the upper

part of the body is of a pale cherry colour, that grows still paler on the under part, which is likewise glistening with silver, each scale being of a silvery white, and having in its middle a large spot of a faint but bright red, which produces a very handsome effect.

The lateral line is of a gray, tinted with fawn colour, and changeable with silvery reflections. The under part of the head and the belly are white; the dorsal and pectoral fins are reddish; these latter have at their base a spot of iron gray; the pinna ani is of a pale cherry colour, with a white border at its upper part, and its last two rays are of a gold colour. The caudal fin is of a deep reddish colour, and terminated by a broad border of brick colour. On opening the mouth of this fish, it was remarked, that its inside, as well as its throat, are of a bright red†.

The difference of sex and age also produces some variation in the colours of the fangris. In proportion as they grow old, the tints become

† The individual which served for this description had the following dimensions:

	Feet	Inches	Lines
Total length	1	2	6
Length of the head	0	3	10
— of the largest ray of the dorsal fin	0	1	7
Base of the same fin	0	5	6
Length of the pectoral fins	0	3	11
— of the ventral fins	0	2	5
— of the pinna ani	0	1	0
— of the points of the caudal fin	0	2	10
The greatest height of the body, measured in a straight line from the origin			
of the dorsal fin to the ventral fin	0	4	3
Height measured at the extremity of the body	0	1	1
Distance from the extremity of the rostrum to the eyes	0	1	6
— to the dorsal fin	0	5	0
— to the pectoral fin	0	3	10
— to the anus	0	7	0

pale,

pale, and the brilliant reflections fade away. In the great number of these fishes which I observed in the LEVANT, I found one which had a very remarkable irregularity: it had, on the left side of the rostrum, a large black spot, and it had no trace of any on the right side. The skin of this individual was livid, the inside of the mouth and throat were whitish, very faintly tinged with red, all its colours were tarnished, and it appeared to me that it was either very old or sickly.

The fish which served as a subject for the description that I have just given, was a male; its intestines were filled with remnants of small crabs, and they were enveloped in a great deal of fat. I have seen others, in whose stomach and intestines were fragments of sea-urchins, and even some small urchins entire. The liver is very large, of a gray and reddish colour mixed, with the exception of its extremity, which is black. The air-bladder is a strong, thick membrane, placed in a horizontal situation; it contains the air between it and the ribs, and occupies half of the capacity of the abdomen. The tongue is thick, rather broad, but very short.

The fangri is a voracious and solitary fish. It dwells in the holes of the rocks: its flesh is very white, but hard and rather dry; it sometimes acquires a size somewhat considerable. I saw one which weighed fifty-five pounds, and I was assured that none larger had been taken in the seas of the LEVANT.

I was willing to try whether the property which WILLUGHBY discovered in the sea-bream, a species nearly allied to the *fangri*, of being luminous during the night*, would likewise be met with in this latter fish; but,

* *Historia Piscium*, cap. iv. page 312.

although I repeated this trial, I never perceived that the *fangri* emitted any light in the dark.

We had set sail from the harbour of RHODES, in company with three vessels; a Frenchman bound to STANCHO, a Venetian proceeding to the ADRIATIC SEA, and another Venetian, loaded at ALEXANDRIA for the account of the English merchants, and directing her course for LONDON. Our crew, who had learned at ALEXANDRIA the real destination and the nature of the cargo of this vessel, regretted exceedingly not being armed, in order that they might take possession of her. Such are the customs of war, which we have decorated with the empty title of laws, as if acts trespassing on property, and by which we strip individuals, strangers to the causes that arm governments the one against the other, ought not rather to be considered as plundering excursions than as regular acts.

After having doubled Cape SANT ANTONIO, the most northern of the Island of RHODES, and consequently the nearest to the continent, from which it is distant no more than three leagues, we found ourselves in the middle of the strait which is called the canal of RHODES, and not the CARPATHIAN SEA, as some geographers have improperly asserted. This CARPATHIAN SEA, which derived its name from the Island of CARPATHOS, at this day SCARPANTO, whose coasts it bathes, is, as well as the island itself, to the south-west of the Isle of RHODES, between the latter and the Island of CANDIA. We left behind us the small Island of ELEUSA, placed at the entrance of a gulf which now bears the name of MARMORO or MARMARISSO, on the coast of ASIA MINOR; it was likewise called SEBASTUS, and it is not half a league in circumference. Not far from this gulf was the mountain of PHŒNICE, on which a town of the same name had been built and fortified.

Cape

Cape VOLPE, anciently *CYNOSSEMA*, terminates, a little more to the west, this part of *CARAMANIA*, and forms the point of it the nearest to the Isle of RHODES. Under this cape is PORTO CAVALIERE, frequented by ships of war, which are not always in safety without the harbour of RHODES, where they cannot enter.

If the wind have ever so little strength, the sea is always very high in the strait formed by *CARAMANIA* and the Island of RHODES. The waves rise there sometimes in a frightful manner; the currents which, in a sea intersected by islands and projecting lands, vary and clash, are the cause of this extraordinary agitation, which is likewise increased by inconstant and irregular winds. Indeed, it frequently happens that the wind is different in several parts of the same channel, and that, on one side, there reigns a flat calm, while, on the other, the winds blow with violence. Not only are the winds inconstant in these obstructed seas, but they are here felt by sudden and impetuous squalls, which are followed and preceded by dead calms; and these violent gusts are sometimes announced by infallible signs. Above the high mountains of which the coast of *CARAMANIA* is for the most part formed, it is not uncommon, in clear weather, to see a very small black cloud, frequently no bigger in appearance than a bird. This globe of vapours is extremely agitated; at first very small, it spreads all on a sudden, contracts, appears and disappears at intervals above the mountain, and changes its form every instant. How calm soever the atmosphere may be, a sudden and violent squall may be expected, at the sight of these insulated clouds, which discharge the wind with so much rapidity and vehemence, that if a ship be not prepared for being overtaken by it, she runs a great risk of losing part of her sails, and even her masts and yards.

On

On the 28th of October, we experienced one of these sudden squalls, after a calm which had kept the ship stationary abreast of Cape *CRIO*, a large promontory of *CARAMANIA*. During this calm, a numerous shoal of fishes, cleaving the water level with its surface, and even darting above it, passed close to us with great rapidity; and the agitation of these inhabitants of the depths of the sea, is always a certain preface of an approaching and violent agitation in the atmosphere and the waters. A small cloud, the precursor of the storm, had made its appearance above the promontory; it expanded, and we were overtaken by a gale of wind, which compelled us to take in all our sails, and continue lying to during the whole night, tossed about by short and overgrown billows.

On the 30th, in the morning, the wind lulled; but it was still contrary, and the tacks, which it forced us to make in a narrow channel, and in the middle of a very heavy sea, strained our little vessel extremely. We had passed beyond the small Island of *SYMI*, whose ancient name, *SYME*, has scarcely undergone any alteration, while its interior condition has greatly changed. It was formerly cultivated and fertile in grain; at this day, are hardly discovered any vestiges of its ancient culture. The Greeks who inhabit it apply themselves almost exclusively to the fishery of sponges, with which the rocks at the bottom of the sea that surrounds their island are covered: they are the boldest and most experienced divers in the world; they descend into the bosom of the sea, to the depth of twenty or thirty fathoms, that is, one hundred and fifty feet; there, they detach the sponges from the rocks to which these adhere, and then return to the surface of the water, in order to take breath for a few moments and dive again. Men, accustomed from their infancy to visit the abysses of the sea, to make of them the fertile fields of their principal

pal harvest as of their sole labours, must naturally brave with intrepidity the rage of an element with which they have found means to make themselves familiar, and the depths of which they dread not to visit: and, indeed, the Symiots are very good navigators; for the intrepidity of a seaman is the most essential quality, as it is the most certain source of his skill. Those Greeks, with very small boats, cross the spaces of sea which separate them from the coasts and from the other islands, and, with the produce of their fishery, they carry thither the activity of a small traffic, which is adequate to the wants and ambition of a nation of divers.

A laborious life, which requires the exertion of all the physical faculties, has made the Symiots a robust race of men, of a handsome stature. HOMER has extolled the beauty of the king of SYMI, NIREUS, son of the nymph AGLAÏA and of the king CHAROPUS. "He was," says he, "the handsomest of all the Greeks that went to TROY, if we except the divine ACHILLES, who was of an accomplished beauty*."

The life of these islanders is simple; their nature and the constancy of their labours have kept their morals free from corruption; and Tyranny, which so severely oppresses their neighbours, has spared, or, to speak more correctly, has disdained a tribe, which, in lieu of opulence, presents only austere habits and laborious occupations, the most certain pledges of independence.

* The following is POPE's elegant version of this passage.—*Translator.*

"Three ships with NIREUS fought the Trojan shore,

"NIREUS, whom AGLAE to CHAROPUS bore.

"NIREUS, in faultless shape and blooming grace,

"The loveliest youth of all the Grecian race;

"PELIDES only match'd his early charms;

"But few his troops, and small his strength in arms."

Iliad, book ii. v. 815.

Very near to the coast of Cape VOLPE, the Island of SYMI lies, at the entrance of a gulf which bears its name. Although by no means considerable, being scarcely two leagues in length by one in breadth, it has two good harbours, fit for the reception of large ships, without reckoning several little bays or coves, in which small craft may lie in shelter. The north harbour, barred by shoals, is the more spacious as well as the more commodious. The most northern of the shoals which protect its entrance, is named *SAN PAULO*, because it is opposite a place of that name, on the coast, at the very head of the gulf.

On the other side of SYMI, the gulf is formed by Cape CRIO, anciently *TRIOPIUM*, a promontory of DORIS, a province of CARIA, at the extremity of which was built the celebrated city of CNIDUS. Here VENUS was worshipped: here was seen the statue of that goddess, the most beautiful of the works of PRAXITELES. A temple, far from spacious, and open on all sides, contained it, without concealing it from view; and, in whatever point of view it was examined, it excited equal admiration. No drapery veiled its charms; and it was of such uncommon beauty, that it inflamed with a violent passion another PYGMALION, who, in the dark, endeavoured to animate a cold and insensible representation of a most fascinating woman, and there left traces of a mad profanation*. The most advantageous offers could not prevail on the Cnidians to part with this master-piece; and PLINY, who relates the fact, praises them for a noble refusal, the object of which immortalized their city, as well as their passion for the fine arts. And this passion of generous souls shone on all sides in the city of CNIDUS: here were seen other statues, which, without having the perfection and the seducing graces of the VENUS of PRAXITELES, contri-

* *Ferunt amore captum quemdam, cum delituisse noctu, simulachro cohaesisse, ejusque cupiditatis esse indicem maculam.*—PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xxxvi. cap. v.

buted no less to the public glory and prosperity, by the crowd of strangers who came to admire them. Heaps of ruins at this day occupy the place of one of the most splendid cities of ancient GREECE, and the hand which rules over these remains prohibits all approach to them, and does not even allow of digging among them, in order to discover fragments of its ancient splendour.

Independently of a taste for the arts, the Cnidians had also a genius for great enterprises. They had resolved to cut through the base of the large promontory which formed their domain, and to convert their peninsula into an island. Their small craft would have avoided the long circuit of Cape *TRIOPIUM*, as well as the dangers of the tempestuous sea which breaks on it; and their country, more insulated, would have been less exposed to attacks and surprises from the enemy. But an oracle suspended labours which were to turn to the safety and prosperity of the state. It was found that the meaning of the two hexameter verses pronounced by the *PYTHIA* at *DELPHI*, signified that the inhabitants of *CNIDUS* were to leave their isthmus such as it was; because, if *JUPITER* had willed it to be an island, he would have saved them the trouble of making it so: an absurd answer, calculated only to divert from the execution of grand projects, and worthy of personages, who, on mysterious tripods, and in an obscure language, boasted of being the interpreters of the gods.

The shores of *CNIDUS* furnish, as in former times, a very large quantity of fishes*. Experience has taught the fishermen of these seas, as well as those of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, that fishes which generally keep in the

* *OVID* called *CNIDUS* the city abounding with fish: *Piscosamque Cnidon*.

offing, approach the land during rains and storms, and that then they may easily be taken even from the sea-shore; whereas, in fine weather, there remain in the rocks of the coast none but solitary fishes, and those of the small species, such as the *turdus labrus*, the *turdus julus*, and the *perca cabrilla*.

The wines of CNIDUS were anciently very famous. THEOPHRASTUS speaks of Cnidian onions as of a particular species*. They were very mild, and did not occasion tears. It is, indeed, certain that, generally speaking, this plant loves heat, and that its bulbs are less acrid in warm countries than in cold or temperate climates. In EGYPT, onions do not bite the tongue in a disagreeable manner; neither do they excite tears when they are cut: dressed or raw, they constitute the most ordinary food in that country.

I doubt not that the excessive use which is made in EGYPT of this species of legumes increases the disposition to the disorders of the eyes and of the skin; but certainly it communicates not to the men any bad smell, as has been asserted, in endeavouring to explain the stench of the Jews who live among us, from the great quantity of leeks which they employ in their aliments†. If this explanation were well founded, no people on earth would exhale a stronger or more disagreeable smell than the Egyptians, who not only eat a great many leeks, but make a prodigious consumption of onions.

It is very natural to imagine that the onions of CNIDUS had also a flavour less acrid than those of the north and the west, that is, of the less warm regions of GREECE.

* Lib. vii. cap. iv,

† Fr. Philephi epistol.

It is the same with garlic, which has likewise less pungency and sharpness, in a soil heated by a burning sun. The inhabitants of our southern provinces may have experienced this, if they have attempted to eat at PARIS the same preparations of garlic as in their country; it is there almost impossible to bear the extreme sharpness of dishes of this sort, which are nevertheless so common in the south of FRANCE.

A clear sky, a tranquil atmosphere, a sea whose surface was gently ruffled by light waves, had, towards the close of the day of the 30th, succeeded to the turbulent and dangerous agitation of the elements. But the faint breeze, which scarcely filled our sails, still blew from a point contrary to our route, and forced us to ply to windward in order to make any progress. With the exception of this obstacle, our voyage was in every respect pleasant. The stretches which we made could not extend far in a channel confined by lands on all sides. Sometimes we approached the lofty coasts of ASIA MINOR; and the aspect of the high mountains covered with ancient forests, cultivated plains, habitations to which the distance gave a cheerful appearance, the diversity of the sites and prospects which every moment changed, drew my attention, and occupied me agreeably; sometimes a multitude of islands and shoals were within our reach, and displayed to my eyes the dress of their plains and of their hills, or the nakedness of their rocks. Ahead and astern of us, other lands, which the progress of our vessel caused to appear moveable and wandering, limited the view. Approximated to each other, they seemed to unite in the distance, and enclose us in a vast basin, which left no opening to our passage. A flock of cranes, directing their course to the south, that is, towards EGYPT, passed over our heads; they flew at so great a height, that, although the sky was very clear, we scarcely perceived

ceived them; but they made the air resound with their cries: these birds pass, from one country to another, only in fine weather.

The next day, I saw a numerous flight of ducks, repairing, like the cranes, to the rich and humid plains of LOWER EGYPT.

A boisterous and still contrary wind arose on the 1st of November. A polypus leaped on board the ship with so much violence, that in striking me on the thigh, on the quarter-deck, where I was seated, it made the same impression on me as a bullet thrown with force; it was a calamary or cuttle-fish*. The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO call it *calamari*, the Provençals *totène*, and the French seamen of the western ocean, *encornet*, because its rounded form, elongated and terminating in a point, is nearly that of a horn, and contains, in its inside, a black liquor like ink.

The head of this soft and very singular animal terminated, on the top and on each side, by three tentacula or fleshy feet, having, along their inner side, small cartilaginous tubercles, hollow, twisted spirally, and which, from their construction, perform the office of clasps. The outermost of these three tentacula is broader and thicker than the second, and the latter more so than the third. The under part of the head is furnished with two large tentacula similar to the three of the upper, and covering the origin of two large antennæ of a softer substance, but of an equal size to their very end, which has the form of a mace bending inwards like a hand, of which the animal makes use for seizing its prey and carrying it to its mouth. The little tubercles, of the same nature, with which the inner side of the feet are furnished, serve it, probably, for the same use,

* *Sepia loligo*. LINN. *Verm mollusc. Gen. 296, spec. 4.*

and

and perhaps also to hold itself close in copulation; for it is well known that these polypi couple by intertwining their sort of arms, and in the middle of the sea; so that they require to be strongly held the one against the other, on account of the agitation of the waters.

Between all these tentacula is seen a round aperture, the raised margins of which represent tolerably well the top of a pomegranate, or of the fruit of the wild rose-tree. The head, compressed above and below, is as broad as it is long; the eyes are very large and oblong; the neck is, as it were, enshathed in a cartilaginous sheath, covered at top by a bone by no means solid, flattened, and cased with a skin: even with this bone is, on each side, a cartilaginous membrane or fin, elevated in its middle, and one of the extremities of which terminates with the body, and the other, at about two-thirds of its length. The upper part of the sheath, at the setting on of the neck, forms a point above, and a slope below. It has a species of beak very hard, and perfectly similar to that of a parrot. The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO give to this beak the name of *karidi*, which means a wall-nut.

This calamary was red above, and white, speckled with a bright red, below. Its principal dimensions will be found in the subjoined note*.

	Feet.	Inches.	Lines.
* Total length, from the end of the antennæ to the extremity of the body	1	1	6
Length of the outermost of the upper tentacula or feet	0	2	8
— of the under tentacula or feet	0	0	3
— of the antennæ	0	8	0
— of the sheath or body	0	5	6
Height of the fins in their middle	0	1	5
Length of the eyes	0	0	8½
Their breadth	0	0	6½

The body of the calamary is very slippery, and difficult to be held in the hand. The younger it is, the softer is its substance; but it acquires consistency in proportion as the animal increases in size.

The navigators of the ocean assert that the calamary becomes one of the largest animals of that sea; which would not be easy to believe, if it be true, as BE'LON* says, that this polypus lives little more than two years. It is considered as a presage of a tempest, when the calamaries dart out of the water. The same day that one came on board of our ship, I saw, in the afternoon, a considerable shoal of them; they rose rather high above the surface of the sea, in the manner of flying-fishes, and carried with them a portion of water, which, in falling again, formed a long string, similar to a detached tail, which united them for some time to the sea, and which, variously coloured by the refraction of the sun's rays, produced a very agreeable sight, owing to the tints with which, in broad day, the humid bodies of the calamaries themselves glitter.

On the shores of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, calamaries are caught with hook and line; and it is principally during the winter that most are taken. Their cartilaginous flesh is rather bad eating, and appeared to me difficult of digestion; it is nevertheless a dish much in vogue among the Greeks. The best manner of dressing it, is to fill the inside of the polypus with minced meat; but however good may be the stuffing, it scarcely renders the flesh of this animal more delicate.

We must distinguish a species or a variety of calamary, also common in the seas of the LEVANT, which the present Greeks call *trapfalo*, and

* *De Aquatil. lib. ii. cap. ii.*

the Provençals *arugi*. This polypus bears much resemblance to that which I have just described. It differs from it, nevertheless, by its eyes being of an extraordinary size, its fins of less extent, its feet having a greater number of small bony points to their cartilaginous tubercles, the back-bone less length, and the sheath a smaller quantity of black liquor; lastly, by its becoming very large. The Greeks, struck by these traits of conformity, affirm that their *trappalo* is only the calamary changed by age; however, I have some difficulty in being persuaded that differences so marked as those which I have indicated are but simple effects of the diversity of age. These disparities in the forms are also to be found in the habits; the arugi approaches the coast more frequently than the calamary; it often comes on the sand of the shore, and there deposits its eggs, whereas the calamary never goes on land. These arugis, from their habit of frequenting the land, are oftener taken than calamaries, properly so called. Their flesh too appeared to me better, and less difficult of digestion; but their eggs have a slight purgative property, from which no bad effects are felt.

I have been assured that the little polypi which were sometimes met with in the open sea, and in large bodies, were of this latter species. In 1774, I found in the stomach of a shark which we caught in the ocean, between the tropics and near the west coast of AFRICA, one of these polypi, which was scarcely six inches long, and the substance of which was almost as soft as mucilage. This extreme softness was partly owing to the tender age of the animal, as well as to the commencement of digestion which it had experienced in the stomach of the shark. The drawing which I caused to be taken of it, and which I give here (*Plate IV. fig. 3.*) represents it of the natural size.

By dint of struggling against the wind, which as well as the sea began to rise, we reached the Island of STANCHO, and we there cast anchor at day-break, on the 2d of November. But before I speak of that island, it is expedient to measure back my way, and make mention of several other islands which are situated to the right, that is, to the south of the route which we had just followed.

CHAPTER X.

A philosophical view of the Islands of the Mediterranean.—Scarpanto.—Caffo. —Cassian *Islands*. — Limonia. — Narki. — Piscopia. — Nifari.—Madona.

WHEN we direct our view over that immense number of broad elevated lawns, of summits of mountains, of points of rocks, placed without order and very near to each other, with which the MEDITERRANEAN is covered on the east, we cannot avoid thinking that this extent of sea, thickly strewn with a multitude of lands, has formed a continent in times the most remote, and that a sudden irruption of the waters of the BLACK SEA, earthquakes, and the violent action of volcanoes, have inundated that ancient country of GREECE, and torn it into innumerable shreds. Vast and deep chasms have swallowed up a considerable portion of that country, and there has remained of it only peaks of mountains, furrowed by cavities and fissures, in which the confusion of the substances attests that they have been overthrown.

Each of these islands, the remains of an ancient land, violently shaken, and for the most part ingulfed by one of those great catastrophes of Nature, the traces of which are so strongly imprinted on the surface of the globe, has near it islets, rocks emerging from the waters, or concealed beneath them, ledges, shoals, fragments of its ancient junction with a neighbouring island, or with the continent: it is still easy for the observer to follow some of the lines which connected these lands with each other, and to convince himself that they all formed but one uninterrupted country.

Who knows even whether it be not in this part of the MEDITERRANEAN, rather than in the ocean, that we must look for the site of the famous ATLANTIS of PLATO? That celebrated philosopher of antiquity has said, in express terms, that it was to the south of ATTICA, which justifies the well-founded presumption that it was situated towards the coast of LIBYA.

Every thing then in the universe is consigned to destruction; all created beings experience various modifications and perish; the Creator alone is immutable and eternal. When substances the most hard and most solid, and which seemed to brave the attacks of time, melt or are pulverized in the fire of volcanoes, and are dissolved by the action of the air and the waters; when the face of the globe changes, either by the sudden effect of subterraneous convulsions, or of great inundations, or by causes more flow, but not less active, man, in the course of his ephemeral existence, disputes with man the ruins of this earth, abandoned to powerful and continual agents of destruction; instead of employing himself unremittingly in cultivating and embellishing the places where he is fixed. Yielding to the rage of ambition, he forsakes pleasing occupations, useful labours; and, arming himself with all the resources that the genius of devastation can engender, he covers with ruins and havock an abode already exposed to the ravages of ages, and which he is to inhabit only during so small a number of years. At the call of an ambitious or wicked man, the human race become seized with the fury of battle; they threaten, clash, and tear each other to pieces; nations devote themselves to hatred and to death; whole generations rush into carnage, and are drowned in blood; while piles of carcases form a mass of horror and corruption, which rage, incessantly reviving, will not fail to increase.

I have

I have already said that the little Island of SANTA CATHERINA appeared to have been detached from the south point of the Isle of RHODES; it is a remnant of the land which joined it to another country, in like manner insulated, and which bears the name of the Island of SCARPANTO; the latter was anciently called *CARPETHOS* or *CARPETHUS*, and gave its name to the CARPATHIAN SEA, that is, to that small extent of sea which lies between the Islands of RHODES and CANDIA, and of which poets have frequently made mention. Not so large as the Isle of RHODES, it is of the same form, or nearly so, being considerably longer than it is broad; it is little more than from seven to eight leagues in length, by about three in breadth. STRABO has also designated it under the denomination of *TETRAPOLIS*, because it contained four cities; other historians reckon seven; at this day there are no longer any. Some very good harbours afford secure shelter to ships surprised by a storm, or buffeted by contrary winds, in a sea which leaves but little open space to be traversed. I did not visit this island, in which poets feigned that PALLAS was born and passed her infancy; nor did I find any opportunity of conversing about it with persons who had visited it: I only know that it has high mountains, rich in minerals, which the islanders dare not touch, richer still at their surface, from the luxuriant pastures which there grow; that its soil is fertile; that game is in plenty, and that its coasts abound with fish; and that lastly, and this is not one of its least advantages, no Turk makes it his residence. I shall add, that the situation of SCARPANTO, between two large islands, and on the track of ships bound to CYPRUS, SYRIA, and EGYPT, may become the emporium of a great trade, as its harbours and its fertility would render it a very convenient place for anchoring and procuring supplies.

Between Cape *PORNISA*, the most southern of that island, and Cape *SIDERA*, the most eastern of the Island of CANDIA, but nearer to the former

former than to the latter, is another point of connection between the two; the small Island of *CASSO*, the ancient *CASOS*, or *CASUS*, a name which the Italians, and after them the Provençal navigators, have metamorphosed into that, more indecent, of *CAZZO*. A town, which was also called *CASUS*, from the name of the father of *CLEOMACHUS*, who conducted inhabitants thither, had been built anciently in this island: it no longer exists; and the population of the island, entirely composed of Greeks, is not considerable.

This island, which is only three leagues in circumference, is little frequented by shipping, its road being difficult of entrance, and its shore dangerous of access; the inhabitants, on that account, are but the more happy and more free: the Turks seldom venture to go thither to exercise the despotism with which they overwhelm the countries subject to their empire. And, indeed, those Greeks of *CASSO*, more independent and more secure in their property, are more laborious than elsewhere; their toil and industry have introduced fertility on a soil of which the stratum even of vegetable earth, which covers the rocks, appeared not to render it susceptible; the vines which grow on this stony ground, furnish them with very good wine; and the honey which they gather is still, as in ancient times, abundant, and of an excellent quality. The *Cassioti*, like all the inhabitants of the small islands which cannot supply the wants of their population, are navigators and traders; but their industry in that line does not extend beyond the limits of the *ARCHIPELAGO*.

Several islets or shoals lie near the northern coast of the Island of *CASSO*; the ancients called them the *CASSIAN* Islands, or Islands of the *Cassians*; they are barren, and scarcely covered with a few bushes; they shelter the road of *CASSO* from the winds and the sea to the north.

To the west of SCARPANTO, other arid and uninhabited islets rise above the sea: navigators alone have an interest in knowing their position; and the chart, annexed to this work, indicates it with exactness.

The first island which we had left on our right, on quitting the Isle of RHODES, is that of LIMONIA. It is by no means extensive, and its length greatly exceeds its breadth. Its eastern coast presents a small haven, defended by a shoal, and on the margin of which stands the only village in the island.

At some distance from LIMONIA is NARKI or KARKI, a small island, which neither has more extent nor importance; it anciently bore the name of CHALCIA or CHALCIS, and the extreme fertility of one of its districts was much extolled. In 1658, the Venetians sacked it most completely, in order to punish the inhabitants for having taken up arms against them; and, since that disastrous period, the fatal abuse of power and injustice, population has been scanty, and culture in a languishing condition. Several shoals, rising above the waters, are the indications of the ancient junction of the lands of LIMONIA and NARKI.

Further on, towards the north-west, and nearly in the middle of the distance which separates the Isle of RHODES from that of STANCHO, is the Island of PISCOPIA, a little larger than the Islands of LIMONIA and NARKI, which I have just mentioned. It has a tolerably good harbour and several anchorages, very useful to ships which frequent these seas. The ancients called it TELOS, and they highly esteemed the perfumes which were there prepared. This branch of trade is lost; but it is a proof of the goodness of the soil of PISCOPIA, and of the mildness of its climate; circumstances the most favourable to the expansion of the sweet odour of plants and flowers.

The Island of NISARI, anciently *NISYROS*, comes next, facing Cape CRIO, from which it is distant only three leagues. It is a land separated from the Island of STANCHO; the poets had preserved the memory of this event by a fable, which, like almost all those of antiquity, was founded on facts historical and real. They therefore related that NEPTUNE, being in pursuit of a giant, detached a piece of the Island of Cos in order to overwhelm him, and that this piece, under which the giant was crushed, is become the Island of NISARI; a temple had there been erected to NEPTUNE, in order to perpetuate the remembrance of its formation. Under this allegory, it is not difficult to discover that the effort of NEPTUNE to conquer the resistance of the giant, is nothing more than the violence of an irruption of the waters, which, bursting through every obstacle, worked themselves a passage across the lands of Cos or of STANCHO, as they have opened some on a multitude of points in the same seas. NISARI is an island of little extent, elevated, and stony; warm waters and other vestiges of volcanoes are there to be met with; grind-stones are very common, and it produces in abundance several sorts of commodities; but it wants a harbour where vessels can cast anchor in safety.

Between the Island of NISARI and that of STAMPOLI, there are islets and rocks, of which an inspection of the chart will convey all the knowledge that it is necessary to obtain.

Among these shoals is to be seen a very remarkable one; the Europeans call it *MADONA* or *Our Lady*, and the Greeks, *PANAGIA*, a word which has the same signification. It is the point of a very high mountain, and the highest, perhaps, of all the portion of the continent of GREECE swallowed up in the waters. What appears of it still is very elevated above the sea, and presents only an enormous block of rock, naked, steep, and almost inaccessible. However, some Greek monks, devoting themselves

to

to absolute retirement, and availing themselves of the fissures which ancient convulsions, or the injuries of the air, have scattered over this rock, have ventured to climb up it, and construct on its summit a little chapel, dedicated to the Virgin, and a habitation, or rather a grotto, consecrated to an austere solitude and the contemplations of ascetic life. What an abode for the man, who, free from all passion, can live independent and secure from the shock of the passions of his fellow-creatures! Commanding a very extensive view, his eye reaches over a part of the ARCHIPELAGO and of GREECE; in the midst of countries, whose population is numerous and agitated, his tranquillity is as complete as if he did not inhabit the earth; devoid of ambition, a boat suffices to procure him the necessary articles of life: ships conveying riches frequently acquired at the expence of honour, and stained with human blood, sail around him, conducted by men, who, on more than one occasion, have envied his fate; calm amid the most frightful tempests, he beholds the impetuous and noisy waves break at his feet; while he is above the reach of the still more terrible storms of cupidity and ambition.

CHAPTER XI.

Stanco.—*Ancient Cos.—Town of Stancho.—Its gardens, its harbour.—Agent of the consulate.—Plague.—Island of Stancho.—Its population, its climate, its productions.—Silk-worms.—Plane-tree.*

NO one is ignorant that the Island of *STANCHO* or *STANCHIO*, of the European navigators, is that which the Greeks called and still call the Isle of *Cos*. According to the remark of CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER*, this denomination of *STANCHO* or *STANCHIO*, arises from the manner in which navigators, too apt to disfigure every name, understand the words which the Greeks employ for saying that they are going to *Cos*, *eis ten Kos*, and which, pronounced rapidly, make *STINCO*: but it is through a mistake, the origin of which I am unable to discover, that the most esteemed geographers say that the same island also bears the name of *LANGO*.

Every one knows too that at *Cos*, 460 years before the christian era, HIPPOCRATES, the lawgiver of physic, was born: his theory, founded entirely on observation and experience, has outlived ages: and the aphorisms which it contains are still, after thousands of years, the safest rule for the conduct and the duties of all those who wish to consecrate, with success, their days to the relief of mankind. The god of medicine was revered in the same spot which gave birth to the first of physicians. The temple of *ÆSCULAPIUS* occupied a part of the suburb of the city of *Cos*; it contained the most valuable offerings, a tribute of the gratitude

* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, chapter vi.

of the sick who had obtained their cure; and inscriptions indicated the disorders by which they had been afflicted, and the remedies which had relieved them†. This custom, at the same time religious and civil, was well calculated to excite emulation among those who made a profession of the art of healing, and to keep at a distance ignorance and empirism.

Cos was likewise the country of APOLLO, the most celebrated painter of antiquity, to whom alone it was permitted to paint ALEXANDER, the greatest hero of his time, if however heroism can consist in the exercise of the most terrible power, which nature and humanity reject with horror, that of disturbing, of tormenting nations, and slaughtering mankind. Posterity, less fortunate with respect to the painter, has not collected his works; we know them only by the tradition of the most brilliant renown, while the books of the father of medicine, more useful and more durable, have been handed to us, as the best school in which we can learn to ward off from our frail and transitory existence the ills by which it is threatened and oppressed.

Other men, illustrious in the arts and sciences, owe their birth to Cos. My object, as I have announced, not being to retrace the ancient history of the countries which I have visited, a history repeated in so many books, and known to all those who have received a liberal education; and the little I say of it being intended only to approximate, or rather to contrast the flourishing situation of these places in ancient times, with the state of decay, and of wretchedness almost general, in which we see them in our days, I have made mention of the greatest men of whom Cos was the cradle and the abode, only for the purpose of recalling to mind how celebrated and flourishing that city must have been, from the concurrence of

† *Voyage du Jeune Anarcharis*, chap. xlv. according to STRABO, book viii and xiv.

the sciences and arts which there shone in all their lustre. Cos was, in fact, magnificent in its interior, as well as very agreeable from its position; its harbour was also one of the finest and most frequented in these seas.

It is almost needless to mention that there no longer exist any traces of the ancient city; the temple of *ÆSCULAPIUS*, the sacred wood by which it was surrounded, the other monuments have there been effaced, as well as the memory of the celebrated men who constituted its glory. Such is the fate of all the cities, of all the edifices, of all the countries abandoned to the devastation of the Turks, a warlike and barbarous nation: like the birds of night, whose eyes are hurt and cries excited by the rays of the sun, the lustre of the fine arts dazzle them, and the sciences are to them no more than an object of contempt. Such is generally the deplorable lot of every country governed by the force of arms, and in which the sword gives the law.

The modern town of *STANCHO* is small; its buildings have nothing remarkable; but its situation on the sea-shore is the same as that of the ancient city, and its environs are still very agreeable. It is surrounded by orchards of lemon and orange trees; their flowers, which the warmth of the climate multiplies and perfumes, there diffuse delightful emanations, and their succulent fruits are in sufficiently great abundance for affording, at a very low price, to its inhabitants a salutary and pleasant refreshment, and for becoming an article of their commerce. Cargoes of oranges and lemons are there shipped, and conveyed to different parts of *TURKEY*, but principally to *SMYRNA* and *CONSTANTINOPLE*.

The harbour, which is defended by a castle, kept in bad order, though formerly safe and deep, can no longer receive any but small vessels; large ships

ships remain without, in a road where there is good holding ground, but which they, nevertheless, avoid during the winter, because it is open to the winds and the swell from the north and west. Scarcely had we cast anchor there, than a messenger from the French consul, who resided in the island, came to apprise us that the captain of a Provençal merchant-vessel, who had brought to STANCHO some Turkish passengers from CONSTANTINOPLE, had just expired of the plague. Although we were in want of some provisions, our determination was soon taken, and we resolved to endure a few privations, and to quit very speedily a shelter which the contrariety and the violence of the winds had rendered necessary to us, rather than expose ourselves to the most dreadful of contagions.

However, as we were to wait till the night had lulled the wind, and caused a land-breeze to spring up, I could not determine to remain so near an island, which I was no longer to have an opportunity of visiting, without landing. I promised my companions, who were not well pleased to see me go on shore, to take every precaution which could insure them that I would not render them victims of what they called an imprudence. The ship's boat landed me alone on the beach; and, for fear of any communication, she returned on board very quickly. I repaired to the house of M. MASSE, who, for twenty-six years, had exercised, at STANCHO, the functions of agent to the general consulate of SMYRNA. I was received with the frank and cordial civility of an honest man, proud of long services which remained unrewarded. "I am by no means astonished," said he to me, "that a man, whose courage has led him to undertake difficult travels, who has braved the ferocity of the inhabitants of EGYPT and the robberies of the Arabs, should not have been intimidated at the notice of the plague. You are in the right to banish the fear of that disorder; this is the first of preserva-

“tive. The imagination affected, the mind depressed with fear, are
“dispositions which seem to bring on the disease, instead of warding it
“off. The plague, according to every appearance, is on the point of
“being propagated in this island; the indifference of the Turks respect-
“ing every precaution which might avert this scourge, or arrest its pro-
“gress, will leave an open field to the development of the fatal in-
“fluences of the contagion, the first symptoms of which have already
“made their appearance; and this year it will make great ravages.”

I begged the agent to explain to me on what he grounded his fatal prognostic. He answered, by communicating to me a remark, which his long residence in TURKEY had enabled him to verify, and which, by establishing a singular affinity between two epidemical diseases, might contribute to a more certain knowledge of their nature. M. MASSE then first informed me, that the plague never broke out at STANCHO but in the month of January, and afterwards observation had ascertained that, in the years when the contagion was likely to be violent, it was preceded by a general small-pox, which carried off a great many children. On my arrival, the small-pox was making ravages; and this circumstance left, in the mind of M. MASSE, no doubt respecting the more terrible havoc with which the plague would desolate the island, if, in the course of two months, it there developed the germs which had just been brought thither.

This observation appeared to me new and important; it may throw a great light on a disease which is scarcely known but by its cruel and rapid effects, and serve as a clue to the curative means which are yet to be sought. How many observations of that kind might not be collected! But it requires time and patience. The example of HIPPOCRATES, the
greatest

greatest observer of his age and of those which have followed, has not many imitators: we are fonder of writing than observing. Every one, now-a-days, is eager to enjoy some reputation, by hastening to shew himself in open day, and does not trouble himself whether the enjoyments of others answer to that premature desire of getting himself talked of; young people, scarcely emerged from school, assume a magisterial tone, and are not aware of the facility with which a school-boy becomes a pedant; others establish theories before they have acquired experience; the sciences and letters cannot be enriched by this cloud of productions which afford no information, except the advantageous opinion which their authors have conceived of them; and had we not still remaining a few great masters, the honour of the sciences and of our literature, we should regret that we are not born in a time when the temple of *Æsculapius* and observing genius furnished to a philosopher, the friend and comforter of mankind, the materials of the immortal lessons which he has written in a manner at once simple, natural, and sublime.

The population of the town of *STANCHO* is, in a very great measure, composed of Turks: the Greeks form that of the rest of the island; but it is not very numerous. Here, there is no place of any consequence but the capital itself. The island, which is much longer than it is broad, is, indeed, of no great extent; but the beauty of its climate and of its soil, its fecundity, and its natural allurements would render the smallness of the number of its inhabitants an extraordinary circumstance, did we not recollect that this charming country is under the immediate command of the Turks, who, occupying the town, are enabled to exercise with greater violence the tyrannic sway, by which plains the most populous and most productive may become desert and uncultivated. *PORCACHI* has asserted that the air of *STANCHO* was unhealthy and subject to several impressions of malignancy, which there produce various contagious diseases.

diseases*. DAPPER has copied PORCACHI†; geographers have copied DAPPER, and, in our days, their books repeat that STANCHO is an island dangerous to be inhabited. But this assertion is ill-founded; voyagers, the most modern and best informed, among whom I shall content myself with quoting M. DE CHOISSEUL-GOUFFIER‡, have taken good care not to repeat it; and M. MASSE, who, as I have before said, had resided at STANCHO for twenty-six years, assured me that he had there seen no other epidemical diseases than the small-pox, the ravages of which are common in several other countries, and the plague, which is brought thither from foreign parts.

And when we pay attention to the situation and the nature of this country, it would be difficult to discover there the causes of so great an insalubrity of which the ancients have not spoken; while they have highly extolled the charms of the Isle of Cos. Here no stagnant water spreads noxious exhalations; here the earth is not impregnated with hurtful substances; high mountains prevent not the circulation of the air; the atmosphere is not humid; the rains are not continual, and, for the most part, the sky is clear and serene; the fertility of the soil is rich and brilliant; and it is rare and very difficult, in the midst of this prodigality of the favours of Nature, for germs of corruption and death to spread and continue.

Some very high mountains command the south part of the island. Navigators, anxious to shelter themselves from the impetuous northerly

* *Description des îles de l'Archipel.*

† *Description exacte des îles de l'Archipel.*

‡ "This island has nothing that distinguishes it at present; the beauty of the climate, the fertility of the soil, and the abundance of the fruits, are properties common to these countries." *Voyage Pittoresque en la Grèce*, vol. i. page 105.

winds,

winds, find, in that quarter, a propitious retreat in the little harbour of *SAFODINO*. The remainder of the island is a beautiful plain, of admirable fecundity, the treasures of which, in a great measure neglected, wait for happy changes in order to display all their magnificence. Fruits, such as oranges, lemons, whose trees form groves where the golden apple waves on all sides in the midst of a thick and perfumed foliage; figs, grapes, &c. are there delicious. The wine which is drawn from these last is delicate and agreeable: *M. MASSE* made me taste some which was not inferior to the most exquisite wines of *GREECE*. The variety of flowers and fruits, with which the gardens are embellished, flatters the smell more agreeably than all the perfumes of *ARABIA*; in short, if a wise and happy liberty could be revived on a land which claims it, the country of *HIPPOCRATES* and *APELLES* would still be an enchanting abode.

Excellent pastures formerly fed numerous flocks, that furnished wool with which the inhabitants manufactured stuffs, much esteemed, both for their fineness and the brilliant colours with which they were dyed. This kind of industry is lost, with a part of the riches that constituted the splendour of the island; and fleeces less taken care of, as well as less common, are no longer wrought either with the same art or the same delicacy.

Previously to the last century, commerce drew, from the Isle of *STANCHIO*, a tolerably good quantity of silk; but, for several years past, none is there to be found. The climate is, nevertheless, very favourable to the culture of mulberry-trees, and to the worm which feeds on them. *ARISTOTLE* attributes the invention of winding into skeins the cods of the silk-worm and of making stuffs of them to *PAMPHILA*, daughter of *LATOÛS*, an inhabitant of the Isle of *COS**; and *PLINY*, who gives the

* *Hist. Animal. lib. v. cap. xix.*

same account, adds with a tone of irony and indignation, that indeed this girl ought not to be deprived of the honour which she has acquired in finding means of dressing women as if they were naked*. What PLINY says afterwards of silk-worms, which, in the Isle of Cos, are reported to be produced from the blossoms of the ash, the oak, and the cypress†, is very surprising, and would give room to presume, with some learned commentators, that the insect of which ARISTOTLE and PLINY have spoken, the former under the name of *bombylios*, and the latter under that of *bombix*, is not the same as our silk-worm, if we were acquainted with any other to which we could apply what they have said of it; if, besides, we did know, from modern accounts, that silk-worms feed in CHINA, not only on the ash, but also on the oak, and even on the cypress, and the turpentine-tree‡. Are there several species of the silk-worm, or insects yielding a silk similar to that of these worms? Are we ignorant of the resources which Nature has diffused in different countries, according to the differences of the soil and climate, for the nourishment of silk-worms? What knowledge natural history and rural economy have still to acquire!

I passed the whole day in visiting the environs of the town, and walking in the rich and delightful groves by which it is surrounded. The obliging M. MASSE chose to accompany me; and his information, the fruit of a long residence in the LEVANT, rendered his conversation a source of instruction and entertainment. In crossing the town, in order to proceed

* Hist. Nat. lib. ii. cap. xxii.

† Ibid. lib. ii. cap. xxiii.

‡ See the second edition of the *Travels into the Interior of China*, by Lord MACARTNEY, translated by Casséra, vol. v. page 291.—Note of the French translator.

to the sea-shore, I saw the famous plane-tree §, which covers the little public square with its antique and twisting branches, and cools it with its impervious shade. Pillars, or rather fragments of pillars of marble and granite, have been erected by the inhabitants in order to support some thick branches, which, being too far distant from the trunk, and loaded with boughs and leaves, would break and sink down through their own weight. These pillars are, according to what M. MASSE told me, the only remains of ancient monuments which are to be met with in the whole Island of STANCHO, if we except a few medals of little value.

A fountain has been built under the shade of the plane-tree: it supplies the wants of the Turks, great consumers of water; and they find, in a coffee-house established under the same foliage, the warm beverage made from the berry of the shrub of ARABIA, and which serves them in lieu of wine and every other fermented liquor. The Turks, to whom cool places are a want and a delight, assemble under the prodigious plane-tree of STANCHO; every one of them feels a pleasure in taking care of it, and they have, for this tree, a sort of religious respect, which is shared by the families of birds that dwell and nestle on its branches.

It would not be an inquiry altogether useless or indifferent to vegetable physiology to make known the age of a tree so enormous; but information, very easy to obtain in EUROPE, is impossible to be collected in TURKEY, where indifference respecting the most memorable events, the want of registers and written memoirs leave in oblivion facts which appear only matters of mere curiosity. The wood of the plane-tree is as hard as that of the oak; the tree is, consequently, very slow in acquiring its growth; and if we pay attention to the truly astonishing thickness and

§ *Platanus Orientalis*.—LINN.

extent of the plane-tree of STANCHO, we shall believe, without difficulty, that upwards of ten centuries have elapsed, since the period of its being planted.

The night was shut in, when I repaired to the ship, satisfied with my little excursion, and with not having been deterred from landing by the dread of the plague. I dispelled the alarms of the crew by the detail of the precautions which I had taken to avoid all dangerous communication, and, on the morning of the 3d, we got under way before day-break.

CHAPTER XII.

Nautical remarks.—The flag-ship of the Turkish navy carried off by a handful of christian slaves.—Captain of a Maltese privateer.—Unhappy situation of the Greeks in the small islands of the Archipelago.—Man, the most cruel of all animated beings.—Gulls.—Gulf of Stancho.—Ceramus.—Halicarnussus.—Boudron.—Mindes.—Salvadigo.

THE eve of our departure from STANCHO was the day which the catholic church consecrates to the memory of the dead, (the 2d of November, *All-soul's day*), a day remarked by the navigators of the MEDITERRANEAN, whom experience has taught that at this period they have to apprehend stormy weather. But this observation, of long practice in navigation, is not to be understood in a literal sense; and it is the same with the gale of wind of ST. FRANCIS'S day, or of the 4th of October, which the seamen of the western ports of FRANCE dread in the northern seas: it is not always precisely in the course of the days of the 4th of October or of the 2d of November that ships are assailed by a storm; but they do not escape it, either a little before, or a little after. We had occasion to verify the correctness of these nautical remarks; for on *All Soul's day* itself the weather was not bad; nor was it so even the next day; but, in the evening, a shoal of porpoises, having passed with rapidity ahead of the vessel, we thought it our duty to prepare for some sudden gust of wind. In fact, on the 4th, an impetuous north-west wind rose all at once; the sea became furious; we drifted towards the coast of CANDIA. It was not possible, during the storm, to think of looking for the bad harbour of CANEA, for which our vessel had taken in her cargo, and we conceived ourselves.

ourselves very happy to be able to enter that of SUDA. We cast anchor there on the 6th of November in the evening, after having been in danger of being lost on the rocks of Cape *MELECCA*.

During the run of about seventy leagues, which we had made from STANCHO to SUDA, we had passed between several lands, of which I shall now speak, in order that I may not have to return to this quarter, the most eastern of the ARCHIPELAGO: I therefore resume my narrative, beginning from STANCHO.

A few years before I was at STANCHO, the roadstead had been the theatre of a scene, in which energy and enterprising genius on the one hand, and negligence and stupidity on the other, acted a memorable part. There, the flag-ship belonging to the Turks was carried off by a few christian slaves, in the very midst of the Ottoman fleet, and taken to MALTA, without resistance. I beheld, with an extreme degree of interest, the spot where so extraordinary a trait of courage and presence of mind had occurred: and I represented to myself the stupid astonishment of the Turks, when they perceived their principal ship of the line going off under full sail. This adventure, which gives the measure of the capacity and foresight of the officers of the Mussulman navy, had made a great noise in the LEVANT, where I have heard it related repeatedly; but I have likewise had the particulars of it from the leader himself of this bold *coup de main*, having known him during my stay in the ARCHIPELAGO.

A Turkish Squadron, commanded by the High Admiral, or Captain-Pacha, anchored at STANCHO, in the festivals of the *Beïram*, which terminate the fast of the *Ramadan*. The celebration of these religious and solemn festivals had attracted to the town the greater part of the officers

and crews of the squadron, and even the Captain-Pacha himself. Twenty or twenty-five Europeans, taken in privateers belonging to MALTA, and reduced to slavery, served on board of the flag-ship. Captain G***, one of the most intrepid commanders of these privateers, who had fought the Mussulmans under the flag of the order of MALTA, was one of the slaves. Overwhelmed by numbers and by wounds, he had yielded, and had been thrown into irons; the opportunity appeared favourable to him for releasing himself from them: he hastened to communicate his plan and his boldness to his companions of misfortune, among whom were some Maltese, Corsicans, and Italians, and to inflame them by the hope of liberty and of a rich booty. Their resolution was soon taken; they fell on the first Turks that presented themselves; they disarmed them, and threw them all, one after the other, into the hold, the hatchways of which they secured. To cut the cables, hoist the sails, and get under way, was the business of the same moment. The other ships having no orders, and perceiving no signal, quietly beheld the departure of the flag-ship, which they might suppose bound on some temporary expedition; and it was not till the Captain-Pacha, apprized too late, in the midst of the exercise of his piety, and himself contemplating from the shore his own ship sailing away with a leading wind, that the squadron got under way; but the pursuit was useless. The ship, conducted by skilful seamen, escaped from them, and, a few days after, arrived off MALTA.

Every one there was very much surprised to see in the offing a large ship of war of Turkish construction, steering towards the entrance of the harbour. The galleys, the ancient monuments of the exploits and valour of the knights of MALTA, were sent to reconnoitre; the artillery was prepared; no precaution of defence was neglected: dispositions were made for repelling the attempts of the enemy; but enthusiasm succeeded these warlike preparatives, when it was known that the ship whose approach

proach had occasioned alarm, was brought in by countrymen and friends, whom there was little expectation of seeing again, and that they had made themselves masters of riches which were still less to be expected.

In fact, the value of this important prize was immense. A ship of the first rate, with her rigging, furniture, stores, provisions, ammunition, and her brass artillery, the money and jewels of the principal officers of the Ottoman navy, part of the sums which the Squadron had previously levied on the annual tribute of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, formed a very rich booty, to which it was necessary to add the price that the order of MALTA paid for every Mahometan prisoner, who, from retaliation, were all thrown into irons. The heroes who had seized on all these treasures, had no inconsiderable number of Turks on board; and it had entered into their speculations, not to kill any of them, if possible, in order to increase the share which they promised themselves from the prize.

But policy deranged these great projects of fortune, and frustrated hopes which sound morality disapproves, but which custom and the sort of justice resulting from it, authorize. The court of CONSTANTINOPLE could not endure such a humiliation: it addressed that of VERSAILLES, and claimed its interference. The latter required from the grand master that the ship should be restored; and officers belonging to the navy of FRANCE were ordered to take charge of her at MALTA, and carry her to CONSTANTINOPLE, where this act of generous condescension, on the part of the French government, made a very favourable impression. This was not the case at MALTA; there the knights beheld with concern the departure of considerable riches, the property of which appeared uncontestedly acquired, and the reward of the bravery of their intrepid cruisers.

The

By way of indemnification, the captors were allowed a sum which they considered as moderate, in comparison to the money that the sale of the prize would have procured them, and it is added, that they waited a long time before it was paid.

Captain G*** spoke to me of this disappointment with much bitterness, and in the ill humour which the recollection of it had left on his mind, his hatred had well nigh fallen as much on the French as on the Turks. Although he had every thing to dread from the animosity of the latter, he was willing to attempt once more to carry on war against them, and to enrich himself with their spoils. I saw him in the ARCHIPELAGO, commanding a fast-sailing vessel, well armed and well equipped. To great intrepidity he joined admirable coolness, and a firmness of character by no means common. The Greeks trembled in his presence, as before the commanders of the Turkish vessels of war; tyranny was the same; but that of the Maltese, less violent, less impetuous than that of the Turks, had something more imposing, and more formidable, because it was calm, cool, and rational. At ARGENTIERA, I was shewn the site of a house which he had caused to be pulled down, and which no one durst rebuild. This happened on the following occasion.

The fate of the Greeks, inhabitants of the small islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, abandoned to themselves, and who seemed to be sought only to be tormented and plundered, was truly deplorable. If a Turkish ship, or the smallest galiot belonging to that nation, puts into one of these islands, the commander becomes its despot; the chiefs of the town or village hasten to kiss his hand and receive his commands. He disposes of every thing, causes to be delivered to him the provisions and all the articles of which he stands in need, imposes labours on the men, sets up for supreme judge, decides controversies, settles quarrels, condemns

to fines which must be paid immediately, orders the bastinado, on the sole of the feet, to be applied as he thinks proper; in short, his stay spreads terror and consternation. Did a Maltese privateer appear in her turn, nearly the same scenes of the abuse and harshness of power and of debasement were represented; the same compliments, the same presents, the same tasks, the same arbitrary acts, the same humiliations, and sometimes even ill usage.

One of the obligations of rigour imposed on these unfortunate Greeks, was, as soon as a Maltese or Turkish vessel cast anchor in their harbour, to station persons to look out on the most elevated points, in order to discover at a distance ships at sea, to give notice of their approach, and to screen a more troublesome guest from the danger of being surprised by his enemy. G*** had just arrived in the road of ARGENTIERA; watches had been placed, according to custom, at the top of towers built on some eminences which overlook the village on every side; the captain of the privateer was on shore with part of his crew, when a vessel was seen to enter the road. The negligence of the sentinel posted on the side from which the vessel came, was cruelly punished. G*** ordered his house to be demolished, and forbade that, as long as he should live, any one should presume to build on the same spot. The order was executed in every point, and, several years after, I saw the ruins of the habitation of a whole family, over-run by brambles and serpents, and still struck by the curse of a plundering adventurer.

I was witness of the sang-froid of this same Captain G***, on another occasion, where he had like to have pronounced again the fatal anathema against another house in the village of ARGENTIERA. He had landed there with ten men well armed; and while the latter were dispersed among the inhabitants, whom they laid under contribution, he
dined

dined at the house of the French agent where I was. In the middle of dinner, his people ran in, quite scared, to announce to him that a vessel was coming into the road, and that she had the appearance of an enemy. G***, without rising from his seat or being in the least disconcerted, ordered them to bring to him the *épitrope*, a sort of mayor or syndic. The latter being arrived, G*** asked him what man of his village he had placed to look out at such a tower? And, on receiving his answer, he enjoined him to lay hold of that man and bring him into his presence. This order, being given in a tone to exact prompt and unqualified obedience, he rose from table, and turning towards his people, said to them: "Come, my lads, let us march, and prepare to attack and exterminate those dogs of Turks!" He did not go far, because it turned out that the vessel arrived was a Ragusan trader; but he was not disposed, on that account, to punish less cruelly the Greek who had neglected to give notice of the approach of this vessel; and it was not without great difficulty that the agent and I, by dint of earnest solicitations, succeeded in obtaining his pardon. A few days after, G*** was so fortunate as to surprize a caravel coming from ALEXANDRIA, richly laden, having on board the annual tribute which EGYPT paid to the Grand Signior. A prize of this importance insured the fortune of the captors; and I know not whether G***, who already lived at MALTA in easy circumstances, covered with years and wounds, having been a long time in slavery among the Turks, has been able to make up his mind to pass the remainder of his life in tranquillity, and to expiate, by acts of beneficence and the exercise of the virtues, a career of disorder and pillage.

Man is not the only animated being that afflicts the earth by cruelties: most animals partake of his voracity; but, limited to satisfying their appetite, they do not, generally speaking, destroy but in proportion

to their hunger: those of the same species tear not each other to pieces, and it is only on strangers that they exercise their gluttony. Man, on the contrary, the implacable murderer of animals of every species, is also the murderer of his own: it is not merely his insatiable appetite that must be gratified; but an inextinguishable thirst for riches, the factitious wants of society, impels him to every excess, to every crime, to an atrocious indifference to bloodshed; and, on this globe, the vast empire of rapacity, he proves himself to be the most ferocious, the most ruthless of tyrants.

A very faint image of this common tyranny is constantly retraced in the roadstead of STANCHO. Gulls, which the inhabitants of our coasts of the MEDITERRANEAN call *gabians*, real feathered pirates, are there met with in great numbers. Sometimes they are seen cleaving the air in every direction, venting their sharp and tiresome cries, sometimes resting themselves on the waves, rising and falling with them, watching for small fishes, seizing them with their sharp-edged and crooked bill, and darting voraciously on the entrails of animals and other filth thrown overboard from the shipping. The fishermen of the LEVANT commonly employ for bait the flesh of gulls cut into bits; so that there exists, between those birds and the fishes, a sort of sympathy of appetite, of reciprocity of gluttony by which they are mutually led to devour each other.

Whether a vessel enter the road, or whether, without stopping there, she pass into the narrow channel which separates the Isle of STANCHO from the main land, she ought carefully to avoid a low and dangerous point, at the extremity of the most western cape of the island, and one of its ancient points of junction with the continent. This cape is scarcely more than a league distant from Cape PATERA, which,
with

with that at present named Cape *CRIO*, already mentioned, forms a deep gulf of *ASIA MINOR*, which, in our time, is called the *GULF OF STANCHO*, from the name of the island situated at its entrance. This was anciently the *CERAMIC GULF*; it formed the separation of *CARIA* and *DORIS*, and derived its name from *CERAMUS*, a maritime town of *CARIA*. At this day its site and name are to be found in a place of little importance, called *KERAMO*.

It would not be so easy a matter to recognise *HALICARNASSUS*, in the harsh and barbarous name of *BOUDROU* or *BOUDROUN*, did we not positively know that in this place existed that ancient and celebrated city, at the entrance of the gulf, on the coast of *CARIA*. Rich and flourishing from its great commerce, magnificent from its monuments†, *HALICARNASSUS* has still greater claims to lasting renown, for having given birth to two great historians, *HERODOTUS* the father of history, and *DIONYSIUS* surnamed of *HALICARNASSUS*. And where is the love-struck and feeling mind that does not recollect, with affecting emotion, that here, an inconsolable wife caused to be erected, by the most celebrated artists of *GREECE*, a superb tomb, a monument of her grief? *ARTEMISA* wished to immortalize the memory of king *MAUSOLUS*, her husband and brother, and above all her regret at having lost him, by the construction of an edifice destined to contain his cherished ashes; a work which was ranked among the seven wonders of the world. But, through another miracle of tenderness and affliction, this disconsolate wife, whose grief soon carried her to the grave, found no other means of comforting her heart, than by making it the worthy and sensible

† *M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER* has given some very beautiful remains of it in the first volume of his *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, which is itself a monument raised to the love of the fine arts.

mausoleum, in which the excess of love seemed to restore to life inanimate remains: till her death, she failed not to mix in her drink some of her husband's ashes. How amiable and attracting would history be, how it would honour the human heart, had it only to transmit facts of this nature!

The fortress, which is at the entrance of the present harbour of BOUDRON, is the work of the knights of ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, who made themselves masters of this place, when, after the first crusades, they had established themselves at RHODES. They constructed this citadel on the foundations of the magnificent palace of the consort of ARTEMISA; they named it *CASTEL SAN PIETRO*, or in Spanish, *SAN PEDRO*. Of this the Turks made *BEDRO*, then *BOUDRON*, changing the *P* into *B*, according to their manner of pronunciation*. Coats of arms, sculptured in some compartments of the walls, still shew, as at RHODES, in whose hands BOUDRON was, before it passed into those of the Turks. But it is not necessary to reach the shore, in order to be convinced that the latter are its possessors. Their negligence is manifest as soon as one approaches the harbour, which the Turks have suffered to be choked up, so that there is no longer water enough for large ships; this harbour is nevertheless safe and commodious, leaving to the wind and sea only a very narrow entrance.

Not far from HALICARNASSUS, and at the extremity of the same peninsula, was another city of CARIA, neither so large nor so celebrated, called *MYNDUS*; its name alone has been preserved, and it is still known by the name of *MINDES* or *MINDESSE*.

* CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 155.

The cape, which terminates to the north the large promontory or peninsula forming the north side of the Gulf of STANCHO, is called Cape GUMICHLU or ANGELI; it is opposite to Cape PATERA, and at the entrance of another gulf, which the ancients called *JASSIUS SINUS*, from the name of the City of *JASSUS*, which stood in its recess.

Between Cape GUMICHLU and Cape PATERA, the coast is strewn with shoals, which are called the *SALVADIGO* Islands. They render the approach to this land dangerous to navigation.

CHAPTER XIII.

Capra and Caprone.—Calamo.—Lero.—Levates.—Stampalia and its pleasures. — Fishes. — Weaver. — Mullet. — Mormylus. — Melanurus. — Skatari.—Cabrilla.—Natural history of fishes.—Buffon and Lacépède.—Singularity of the cabrilla.

THE first island that is met with to the north-west, on quitting the Isle of STANCHO, is *CAPRA*, near which another, larger, is called *CAPRONE*. The small extent of these two islands, and their names, sufficiently indicate that they are inhabited only by goats, which find means to climb up rocks inaccessible to men.

Farther on, lies an island somewhat more considerable, though not large, since it is only five or six leagues in circumference. It is called *CALAMO*, *CALMINO*, or *CALIMENA*. The ancients called it *CLAROS*; *PLINY* also distinguishes it by the name of *CALYDNA*, and *OVID* has extolled the abundance of the honey which it produced*. There are, on this island, some very lofty mountains, a population far from numerous, and the remains of an ancient town on the west coast; on the other side, a village, which also bears the name of *CALAMO*, built on the summit of a mountain, and near to it, a tolerably good harbour, formed by a bight or small gulf, before which lies an islet that shelters it from the winds and sea: but this harbour is little frequented; the main land which is in the vicinity, and the larger islands which are within reach, present harbours still

* ————— *Fœcundaque melle Calydna*.—Metamorph. lib. viii.

better, and at the same time more calculated for the supply of provisions to navigators, and for the speculations of traders. CALAMO is, in fact, a poor island, which cannot provide for the subsistence of its inhabitants, almost all occupied in procuring foreign resources by a carrying-trade. Their mountains, indeed, contain minerals; but this circumstance, which, under another government than that of the Turks, would constitute the wealth of a country, would, under theirs, become a source of oppression and ruin.

This is likewise the case with the Isle of LERO, between which and the Isle of CALAMO we passed, in order to proceed to CANDIA. It neither has more extent nor more advantages; a good harbour and a few coves, high mountains, in whose bosom mines and quarries of marble might be worked, an ungrateful soil, its inhabitants under the necessity of seeking abroad succours by navigation and traffic, a communication far from frequent with foreign shipping, are so many traits of conformity between these two islands.

LERO has not changed the name which it bore in antiquity; but its present state is very different from that formerly enjoyed by this colony of Milesians.

We then passed between the Islands of STAMPALIA and AMORGO, after having left, between this latter island and that of LERO, some barren and uninhabited islets, which are called LEVATES, anciently LEBYNTHOS. Ships may anchor near the largest of these islets.

In the name of STAMPALIA, or STAMPALÆA, we again find that of ASTYPALÆA, which the same island formerly bore. This name of ASTYPALÆA, which, in its proper signification, means the *ancient city*, is said

to be derived from that of the daughter of PHŒNIX and PIRAMEDE, sister of EUROPA, and beloved by NEPTUNE, by whom she had ANCÆUS, who reigned over the people named LELEGI*. This island was also called PYRRHA, PILEA, and at length THEON-TRABEZA, that is, *the table of the gods*, because its soil is rich with the gifts of fertility, and almost every where enamelled with flowers.

In the time of PLINY, it was an independent country, which belonged to no one†. Here ACHILLES had a temple, and here that sort of worship which was paid to valour, undoubtedly contributed to maintain among its inhabitants the energy necessary for people who are not willing to submit to the yoke of a conqueror.

If we chose to give to STAMPALIA an epithet which might be applied to its irregular form, we should call it *the Indented Island*. Its shores are, in fact, as if rent, and presenting a multitude of points and sinuosities, which form so many bays and coves more or less fit for the anchorage of ships or boats; but we can scarcely reckon there more than two harbours; the one to the south, the other to the north. It is much longer than it is broad, being only two leagues in its greatest breadth, and six in length. It is not very lofty, and no high mountains cause it to be discovered from afar. Soil of this nature is the most adapted to fecundity, which takes delight in embellishing plains and hills, and does not extend to the top of steep mountains. STAMPALIA is one of the most fertile islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; its inhabitants partake of the mildness of the climate and the goodness of the soil; and there is not to be found in their character the roughness and asperity of their neighbours, the islanders of CALAMO and LERO, countries ungrateful and rugged.

* PAUSANIAS, book vii. chap. iv.

† Hist. Nat. book iv. chap. x.

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But, in regions so favoured by Nature, and so disfigured by the form of the administration to which an unhappy and too lasting a lot has subjected them, the gifts of brilliant fecundity are scourges, and a stony aridity is a desirable blessing. The one, the natural and legitimate source of riches, becomes that of frequent exactions. The more a country is beautiful and smiling, the more it attracts the attention and the visits of stupid and ferocious extortioners, who there spread discouragement and annihilate agriculture; whereas those mad despots, who ruin themselves by ruining their domain, avoid barren countries, and dread men who live on mountains, the usual asylum of poverty, courage, and independence.

Were I at liberty to choose an agreeable retreat, which, without being solitary, should be free from noise or interruption; which should not be deprived of communications from without, yet should but seldom occasion them to be wished for; which, under a happy temperature, would keep me alike secure from the oppression of heat and from the sharp sensations of cold; in which an easy culture would yield me much beyond what can be expected from trifling labours, at the same time that I should find there the abundant resources of a wholesome and varied food; where my steps and my sight would wander with so much satisfaction and pleasure over plains enriched by the bounties of a fruitful agriculture, and chequered with a multitude of flowers sown by the hand of Nature; where, in short, beauty is in a delightful harmony with tenderness and sensibility, my choice would fall on STAMPALIA, provided that it ceased to be subject to the empire of the Turks, and that not one of those profaners of the finest countries of the earth could pollute it with his presence.

The sea is no where so full of fish as on the shores of an island which Nature had destined to be fortunate, and which the barbarous power of

the Turks has contrived to render unhappy. The fishes, which I there saw the most commonly taken, are the following:

1. The weever*, the *dracon* of the ancient Greeks, and which the moderns still name *drakaina*. In request for our tables, on account of the exquisite taste and the firmness of its flesh, fishermen dread it, from the pain and danger which they experience from the puncture of the prickles with which it is armed, and with which it strikes with much force and address. The most common method of catching these fishes in the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO is with silk lines, which are sunk to the bottom of the water, and care is taken, as soon as any are caught, to knock them in the head, in order to avoid their venomous wounds. I have known, in these seas, a fisherman, who, having been pricked by a weever, experienced great inflammation, and a considerable swelling, attended with fever and delirium.

I have seen weevers whose colours were not the same, and which had, on the sides of the body, large black spots that others had not; but these differences are not, perhaps, sufficient for constituting distinct species, as several naturalists have imagined; since the differences consist only in varieties of colours, the effect of the different nature of the bottom where they feed, and of a few other circumstances, and since, besides, these fishes, whatever may be the dissimilarity of their tints, have all the same forms, and the same characters, as well internal as external.

By the account of the fishermen of the LEVANT, weevers do not there exceed a foot; and, indeed, that size is even uncommon. They are pretty frequent in those seas, and their flesh is there much esteemed; but as, without being hard, it is more firm than that of other fishes, it is customary to allow a longer time for its being dressed.

* *Trachinus draco*. LINN.

2. The mugil or mullet*, to which the modern Greeks have preserved the name of *kephalos*, given it by their ancestors. The Turks call it *kefal-baluc*. Many of these fishes, which are of a small size, are taken in the ARCHIPELAGO during the summer: they require, according to every appearance, a more open sea, when they have attained a larger growth; for those caught on the coast of the Island of CANDIA are generally larger than those found in the narrow channels which separate the islands; unless we imagine smaller mullets to be a distinct variety, to which the Greeks give the denomination of *kephalo-poulo*, little mullet.

3. The mormylus†, or *mormyra* of the modern Greeks, a name which differs very little from that of *mormyros* or *mormylos*, under which the ancients knew that fish, on account of its whiteness and its marbled spots. Silvery white, blue, and gold colour yellow, glisten on its scales, and cupreous reflections increase their lustre. Its flesh does not correspond with the beauty of its exterior; it is far from firm, and sometimes contracts the taste of mud, in which the mormylus delights, and where it feeds on little crustacea and mollusca.

Writers on ichthyology have said that the mormylus scarcely attains more than the length of a foot. I saw one in the ARCHIPELAGO which was upwards of a foot and a half in length.

4. Another fish of the same genus as the mormylus, but whose flesh is delicate and well-tasted, is called by the modern Greeks *melanouri*. It is the *oblade* of our coasts in the MEDITERRANEAN‡, the *melanouros* of the ancient Greeks, and the *klali* or the *schargusch* of the Arabs. I give

* *Mugil cephalus*. LINN.

† *Sparus mormyrus*. LINN.

‡ *Sparus melanurus*, LINN.

the figure of it (*Plate IV. fig. 1.*), because I found that it was by no means exact in the books of natural history of fishes, which is owing, perhaps, to the existence of some variety in this species.

The name of *melanurus* has been given to this fish, on account of a large black spot which it has on each side of the tail, near the fin. Other species also bear the same spot; but they are easily distinguished from this, which has the body more elongated, and the eyes larger: this latter character has likewise procured it the denomination of *ocalata* in Latin, and *occhiata* in Italian. A colour of a blackish blue, with reflections shining with silver, adorns, with changeable shades, the upper part of the body; it grows fainter on approaching the belly, which is of a silvery white. The eyes are of a gold colour yellow, with a few light and blackish shades. The colours are more faint and less dazzling on the scales of the females and the young ones. When these fishes are still small, the Greeks call them *aphropsara*, froth-fishes.

The bait the most in use for taking the *melanurus* in the ARCHIPELAGO is a mixture of bread and cheese, which is thrown on the water.

5. The *skatari* of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, another species of *sparus* which has much affinity to the *cantharus**, or silvery-eyed *sparus*, with yellow, longitudinal, parallel lines; but which, at the same time, differs from it sufficiently to be considered as a distinct species, or at least as a constant variety. (See *Plate V. fig. 2.*) The drawing represents exactly all the details of exterior conformation; and the most certain manner of expressing them, being to speak to the eyes by good figures, I shall dispense with endeavouring to trace those forms by words, which, however clear we may suppose them, present but an imperfect image of the objects which we purpose to describe. I shall confine myself to saying a few words of the parts which do not appear in the drawing.

* *Sparus cantharus*. LINN.

The opening of the mouth is very small, if we compare it to the size of the fish. Each jaw is furnished in front with long teeth, bent inwards, pointed, and sufficiently distinct from each other for those above to lock between those below, and *vice versa*. The number of these teeth is not the same in every individual: I have seen some with twelve; others with ten in each jaw; some again have only ten above and twelve below. Behind these teeth, the jaws are thickly beset with a great number of small points, which render them rough to the touch like a rasp; and on the sides is a row of other teeth, short and slender; the tongue is terminated in a point; and in the inside of the throat there is, both above and below, a bony tubercle covered with asperities.

The *skatari* has the upper part of the sides of the head of a gray, variegated with a blackish hue; the top of the head, between the eyes, appearing, in certain lights, of a cupreous and azure blue; a blackish tint round the eyes; the operculæ of the gills of a brilliant, cupreous green colour, with blackish variegations; the sides of the body of a blackish gray, deeper towards the middle, and striped, throughout all the length, with lines of a sky blue; the under part of the head and body variegated with gray and white; the dorsal fin half blackish gray, and gray clouded with bright blue; the caudal fin of a gray, glistening with cupreous reflections, and terminated in black; the pinnae spotted with gray and bluish, with a gray border, and a little bright blue in the part occupied by the prickly rays; the ventral fins variegated with gray, white, and bluish; lastly, the pectoral fins gray, with tints of sky blue. The lateral line is of a yellow, slightly tinged with a bluish cast; the eyes are blue, with white spots, and the inside of the mouth, as well as the tongue, is white.

I observed, that all the fishes of this species had not the same tints nor the same colours; and these trifling disparities are probably produced

by age, sex, or the nature of the bottom. They all have the gall-bladder elongated and cylindrical, the spleen blackish, the liver large, and of a reddish gray, the air-bladder very ample, and of the same form as that of the *fangri**. Their flesh is firm and delicate; they approach the coasts only during bad weather: I have been assured that the season for spawning was in the months of September and October. These fishes are of an extreme voracity, and they exercise it on those of the small species; almost all the skataris which I opened, had the stomach and intestines filled with *athernos*, fishes of which I shall speak in the sequel.

6. The *cabrilla*†, a small fish which has many affinities to the perch. The Greeks have preserved to it the ancient name of *channo*, from the verb *chainein*, which signifies to gape, because this fish almost continually keeps its mouth open, and seems to gape. (See *Plate IV. fig. 3.*)

In the seas of the LEVANT, are caught *cabrillæ* which vary in colour: these differences, according to the Greek fishermen, are owing to the diversity of the bottom on which the *cabrillæ* live habitually; and this observation is, with some modifications, perhaps applicable to other species of fishes. The *cabrillæ*, which keep on a rocky bottom, have colours more lively and more variegated than those which remain, from preference, on a bottom soft and muddy. Among the great number of fishes of this species which I examined in the ARCHIPELAGO, I remarked four very distinct varieties.

Those of the first have the head variegated with brown, red, and bluish gray, with orange colour streaks; the upper half of the body of a bright brown, shaded with gray, with broad stripes of a reddish brown; the lower

* See page 113 of this volume.

† *Perca cabrilla*. LINN.

part of the body of a bluish gray, striped longitudinally with orange colour; the under part of the head red; the belly of a pale rose colour; the dorsal fin blackish at its base, afterwards bluish, then flaxen, lastly bordered with gray, with white spots; the caudal and anal fins bluish, and spotted with flaxen; the ventral fins of the same bluish colour, with yellow lines between the rays; the membrane of the pectoral fins of a bluish gray, and its rays of a gold colour; the eyes orange colour; the inside of the mouth a little reddish, and the tongue white.

The cabrillæ of the second variety differ from those of the first, by a broad stripe of a reddish brown dividing them into two equal parts throughout all their length; by another stripe, equally broad, of an orange colour, having immediately underneath it a bar of sky blue, extending from the pectoral fins to the tail, on a bluish gray ground; by having the under part of the head of a bright red, and the iris of the eyes yellow, and spotted with red.

A third variety comprehends the fishes of this species, whose head is of a gray shaded with a bluish tinge, with flaxen lines; the upper half of the body gray, and striped with large transverse bands of a fawn colour gray, the other half bluish, and striped longitudinally with flaxen colour; the whole body glistening with reddish reflections; the under part of the head of a pale rose colour; the belly white, lightly shaded with red; the caudal fin bluish, speckled with bright blue and orange colour, and terminated with a blackish tint; the pinnae without spots, and the iris of the eyes white.

Lastly, and this last variety is very uncommon, are some cabrillæ which are white, and whose transverse stripes are of a very light fawn colour, and the longitudinal lines of a very light red.

If the reader compare these details respecting the forms and colours of *cabrillæ* with the incomplete and even incorrect descriptions which are to be found in the works of naturalists who have spoken of them, such as *BÉLON*, *RONDELET*, *SABIAN*, *WILLUGHBY*, &c. he will be convinced that the natural history of fishes has still much to acquire, and that a multitude of observations is wanting for our knowledge in this line, to be on a par with that which has been collected in some other branches of zoology. This branch, however, is not the least important; it interests the arts, commerce, and navigation, those powerful vehicles of the wealth and prosperity of nations; and the laudable curiosity, which leads well-intentioned persons to learn and admire the infinite and majestic variety of the works of Nature, finds an aliment worthy of it in that immense crowd of beings that people the waters, and there display the dazzling reflections with which the scales of the greater part of them glitter.

But so interesting a branch of the science of Nature is on the point of taking a new flight, and reaching the pitch which has been attained by other parts more easy, but neither more agreeable nor more useful to be cultivated. *BUFFON* had given an impulse to every mind; the knowledge of natural history, generally neglected or confined to the narrow circle of the learned, became a prevailing taste; a want for men animated by the desire of instruction; the genius of the *PLINY* of FRANCE, equally lofty, equally sublime, but less gloomy than that of the *PLINY* of antiquity, lighted them with his torch, and led the way to the sanctuary of Nature, whose most secret recesses, and most precious materials, he had begun to unveil and expose to admiration. In terminating a career of glory which conducted him to the temple of Immortality, this man, of gigantic renown, against which the efforts of audacious *Me-diocrity*, and the shafts of obscure *Envy*, are annihilated, like feeble

waves against a rock standing on an unshaken base; this man, I say, the cherished confidant and painter of Nature, bequeathed his rights and his pencils to him of his cotemporaries the most worthy of that brilliant and honourable inheritance. We love to find again the successor of BUFFON, to follow him in his profound researches, to contemplate the colouring and harmony of his pictures, to participate in the movements of the exquisite sensibility of his soul; and if BUFFON found means to render the study of the natural history of quadrupeds and birds so attracting, it was reserved for LACEPÈDE to diffuse the same charms on the natural history of fishes.

An ancient naturalist, whose name ought of course to be classed with those of PLINY, BUFFON, and LACEPÈDE, has said that the *cabrillæ* were all females*. This opinion was so widely spread, that it was adopted even by the poets†. RONDELET affirms that all those which he dissected had a womb‡; other authors have repeated what was written by ARISTOTLE and RONDELET; but this observation has, without inquiry, been rejected by DUHAMEL||. However, the remark of ARISTOTLE is not destitute of foundation; and if we chose to take the trouble of verifying most of the facts which the valuable works of antiquity set forth as true, and which those of our days declare to be false, we should, perhaps, get the better of the frenzy that leads us to reject a multitude of observations, which, although they clash with general ideas, are not, on that account, the less real.

* ARISTOTLE, Hist. of Animals, book iv. chap. ii.; book vi. chap. xii.; and Treatise on Generation, book iii. chap. v. and x.

† *Concipiunt channæ gemino fraudata parente.* OVID.

‡ *Apud Gesnerum, in aquatilibus, de channa.*

|| *Traité de Pêches, part ii. sect. iii. chap. iii. art. ii.*

I endeavoured to ascertain whether ARISTOTLE had been mistaken on this occasion, as DUHAMEL has asserted. I opened several cabrillæ in the LEVANT; and, if they were not all females, properly so called, all might be reckoned real hermaphrodites, since all had seed or soft roe, and at the same time an ovarium, containing eggs in a small quantity.

These fishes scarcely exceed eight or ten inches in length, in the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO, where they are frequently met with. It is in autumn that they appear there most commonly, and are caught with greater facility, because they are then assembled in shoals. They devour fishes smaller than themselves, but nevertheless sufficiently large to appear secure from the voracity of cabrillæ: I saw one five inches long, which had swallowed an atherno of nearly three inches in length. And, indeed, their gluttony has become proverbial among several nations of the East. However, the flesh of the cabrilla is white, firm, and well-flavoured; but it is full of small bones, which render it troublesome to be eaten.

CHAPTER XIV.

Amorgo. — Oracle invented by the Greek monks. — Present state of that island. — Archil. — Trade of the French and of the English in the Levant. — Squills or sea-onions. — Tetters. — Teeth. — Prejudices. — Women of Amorgo. — Their drefs. — Amorgo-Poulo. — Iflets.

TO the north-west of the Island of STAMPALIA is the Isle of AMORGO, which, in the time of PLINY, bore the same name of *AMORGOS*, or *AMORGUS*; more anciently it was called *HYPERA*, and before then *PATAGE*, and, according to others, *PLATAGA**. It is not quite so large as STAMPALIA, and its shores are less winding, and less thickly furnished with capes and points: accordingly it presents not so many retreats to navigators. There are none on its long eastern coast, which is very steep, and we can scarcely reckon more than two tolerably commodious harbours, or havens, on its western shore; the one, to the north, is called *PORTO SANT' ANNA*; and the other, to the south, and the better, *PORTO VATHI*.

The inhabitants of AMORGO were formerly friends to the sciences and fine arts; at this day they are devoted to ignorance, and to superstition, its faithful companion. In the country which gave birth to SIMONIDES, he of the Greek poets who possessed, in the highest degree, the art of

* PLINY, Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.

moving the passions, and of causing the sweet tears of sensibility to flow, are now to be found no others than *papas* and *caloyers*, without genius, as well as without knowledge, and credulous ministers of an absurd credulity. They shew, in a small chapel, a vase, which they affirm to be a certain oracle, and which the ignorant consult, in order to know what will be the issue of a voyage, or an enterprize. The vase full of water is a sign of success; if it be almost empty, it announces ill fortune; and fables and impostures of this sort have, among the modern Greeks, replaced the ingenious and allegorical fictions of their ancestors.

Of three ancient towns, *ARCESINA*, *MINOË*, and *ÆGIALE*, destroyed even to their very vestiges, since their site is doubtful, there remains only a little town, or village, built on an eminence; and monasteries, where miracles are the occupation and the principal revenue of the monks or caloyers who inhabit them.

High mountains, naked and steep rocks, occupy some points of the island. In other parts, plains and vallies are the domain of a brilliant fertility. The abundance of its wines, oil, corn, and fruits, was renowned; it still subsists, although less rich, because, far from being seconded, it has to surmount the obstacles and difficulties of a bad administration. A few districts are still well cultivated, and yield rich harvests; olive-trees there furnish a tolerably large quantity of oil, in proportion to the extent of the territory; figs are there good and very common, and the wine is still of a very good quality. That species of large grape with oval seeds, and a succulent and perfumed pulp, which the present Greeks call *ox-eye*, and we *raisin d'ALEXANDRIE*, there becomes of a considerable size, and very delicious.

If

If agriculture has almost preserved its ancient prosperity, the arts are there extinct, as well as the sciences which accompany and direct them. At AMORGOS are no longer fabricated those rich stuffs, which, under the name of *amorgis*, were in great request, both on account of the fineness of their tissue, and of the beauty of the colour with which they were dyed. The inhabitants, nevertheless, still apply themselves to dyeing; and they know how to give to their linen-cloths a red colour with archil, a species of lichen, which is called by the French, in trade, *orseille d'herbe ou d'AFRIQUE* *. This not only clothes the rocks of AMORGOS, but it grows also on those of several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, and particularly in that of ARGENTIERA, of TINO, and of POLICANDRO. But the Greeks of the greater part of those islands were not acquainted with the property of this archil, which they considered as a useless moss, of whose name even they were ignorant. It was not till 1776, or 1777, that they began to know that it was of some value; and they learnt this from the English, who came to purchase it, and ship it on board small vessels. The latter paid for it from six to thirteen parats the ocque, that is, from three to six *sous* the pound. When I was in those islands, in 1799, archil still passed there by no other name than that of *Englishman's grass*.

Thus it is that people, whose institutions are directed towards trade and manufactures, learn to avail themselves of every resource, and exercise their industrious activity on productions which others disdain; thus it is that, in the greatest things, as well as in those which are the most trifling in appearance, the English nation has almost always preceded every other in point of discoveries, and does not consider as unworthy of its researches

* *Lichen Græcus, Polypoides, tinctorius, saxatilis*, Tourn. cor. xl.; and *fucus verrucosus tinctorius*. Infit. Rei. Herb.—*Lichen roccella*. LINN.

and speculations, objects which seem the most minute, provided they can be turned to the benefit of traffic and of the useful arts. I have always been struck by the manner in which the French carried on trade in the LEVANT. Not but that it was rich and flourishing; yet they proceeded only on a large scale; they neglected smaller matters in a country where the division of the soil commands them, and where they may be multiplied with considerable advantage; and it cannot be doubted, that a junction of several small branches of traffic, each of which, in particular, appears of little importance, may, in its turn, form a mass of produce very interesting to commerce and industry. These reflections, to which I shall give greater scope in the sequel of this work, naturally present themselves, when we have seen the French, whose trade to the LEVANT was very anciently established; who there obtained a very great preponderancy, and held it almost entirely in their own hands; whose agents were spread, for a time, over all its islands which afforded any interest, whether from their commerce, or from the intercourse with the shipping which touched there; when we have, I say, seen the French, enjoying in the Turkish empire an ascendancy which other nations were far from attaining, not availing themselves of so advantageous a position, neglecting easy means of increasing their commercial riches, and suffering foreigners to get possession of them, and to derive a considerable profit from what they either did not know, or disdained.

The same English vessels which came to turn to account the productions of the rocks of the small islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, also took in squills, or sea-onions*, which grow there in abundance, on the mountains and between the rocks. While augmenting their own commerce, they thus

* *Scuilla maritima*. LINN.

furnished to the poorest class of those islands, which there, as every where, are numerous, new means of existence, by the search, far from laborious, of archil and squills.

The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO call this latter plant *kourvara-skilla*, ball squill; *kourvara* signifying properly a ball of thread. They also give the name of *skilla* to a plant of another genus, and which is an *orchis* or *fatyrion**. But, in order to distinguish it from the real squill, these islanders call it *orchida-skilla*, squill with testicles, on account of the form of its fleshy and oblong bulbs, somewhat similar to the testicles of sheep. In the ARCHIPELAGO, they are reckoned to be very serviceable for the cure of tetters. I myself have seen some very good effects from them, when that disorder did not arise from a blood too much vitiated. The whole preparation consists in dividing, with a knife, one of these bulbs in the middle, and in making incisions in its flesh, in order that the juice may flow from it more easily. The tetters are rubbed with this repeatedly. This very simple medicament makes them disappear when they are recent, and cleanses and softens very much the more inveterate and of longer standing. But, in countries where superstition is always by the side of reality, people are not contented with properties confirmed by reason and experience, but seek imaginary ones. To *fatyrion* is attributed the virtue of preserving the teeth white and sound for a length of time, not by making use of some of the parts of that plant for the purpose of rubbing or washing the teeth; but if any one meet with a young shoot of *fatyrion*, at the moment when it is beginning to appear above ground, he must prostrate himself, and bite, as hard as he can, this sprouting stem, which is then white, with a few black specks.

* *Satyrium orchioïdes*. LINN.

A multitude of similar practices are to be remarked among the modern Greeks. These are not, as in countries where instruction and knowledge are more diffused, the ridiculous appendage of the ignorant class. Opulence, which procures elsewhere the advantages of a good education, and repels foolish credulity, makes, in GREECE, no difference on this subject between the rich man and him who lives in a state of wretchedness. They all are given up to the same errors, to the same practices of superstitious credulity, to the same confidence in ignorance, and in traditions equally absurd and whimsical; so that there, prejudices are common to all classes, and senseless creeds are there generally accredited, and, if I may so express myself, are national.

Of these I shall frequently have occasion to mention instances which deserve to be collected as materials for the history of the human mind, and, in particular, for that of a people who were at all times one of the most superstitious in the world, and whom slavery, and a forgetfulness of the sciences and fine arts, have involved in all the errors which ignorance can introduce into minds long since disposed to welcome and preserve them.

Among the allurements of AMORGOS, we must place in the first rank the mildness and affability of its inhabitants, and the beauty of the women, who, by their charms, remind us that we are in countries, where, from time immemorial, the most amiable sex were in possession of forms the most noble and most elegant, of the bloom of brilliant colour, of an outline the most graceful, of minute attractions the most fascinating. But these handsome women clothe themselves with strange dresses, to which European eyes are not easily reconciled; and they must needs be truly beautiful to appear so under such a garb. It bears much resemblance

blance to the dress of the women of NILO and ARGENTIERA, of which I give the figure (*Plate VII.*); with this difference—the women of AMORGOS pass a shawl, or large yellow handkerchief, made of fine wool, over their forehead and the lower part of their face, twist it round their head in the form of a turban, tie it behind, and suffer a long end of it to hang down their back.

Among the people of the EAST, fashions are not, as in our western countries, ephemeral fancies, bantlings of instability and capricious luxury; they are customs lasting and ancient, whose origin is lost in the obscurity of ages, and which will still have a long continuance. If, as cannot be doubted, the usages of nations are an image of their character, we shall conceive a high opinion of the constancy of the women of AMORGOS, and of all those of the other parts of GREECE, who, like them, attached to ancient habits, and strangers to the versatility of fancies, have preserved their dress, however whimsical, however inconvenient even it may appear, when one is not accustomed to see it or wear it. In fact, it is among these women, so favoured by Nature, but at the same time so indifferent as to procuring themselves garments more suitable to their shape, and better calculated for the more advantageous display of their charms, that it is common to meet with the valuable union of beauty, glowing affection, and constancy.

South of the Island of AMORGOS, and at the distance of about three leagues, is seen an uninhabited islet, which is called *AMORGO-POULO*, or *LITTLE AMORGO*.

Between the same island and that of NAXIA, that is, to the west of the former, are other islets equally uncultivated and uninhabited, some of

which, covered with lentisks*, small cypress-leaved cedars, †, and other wild plants, serve for the feeding of the flocks which are kept on them; while the others, which consist of steep masses of rocks destitute of all verdure, are the abode of a multitude of birds of prey.

* *Lentiscus vulgaris*. Tourn.

† *Cedrus baccifera, folio cupressi, major, fructu flavescente*. Tourn.

CHAPTER XV.

Nanfio.—Partridges.—Nio.—Festival of St. Gregory.—Cock-roaches.—Day reputed unlucky among the Greeks.—Women of Nio.—Hair of the Greek Women.—Dresses of the Women of Nio, and of some other islands of the Archipelago.—Women of Santorin.—Cotton manufactures.—Island of Santorin.—Kammeni.—Account of a sudden appearance of a new island in 1707.—Its present state.—Superstitious idea conceived of it by the Greeks.—Pumice-stones.—Islands of the Gulf of Santorin.—A bank or ledge appearing likely to form, ere long, another island.—Earthquakes.—Island of Santorin.—Nature of its soil, its productions.—Thera.—Pyrgos.—San Nicolo.—Scaro.—Greeks of Santorin.—Their efforts for preventing, in their island, the working of *pozzolana*.—Christiana.

THE channel formed by the Islands of STAMPALIA and AMORGOS, extends between two others, equally inconsiderable, NANFIO and NIO. The former, situated to the south-west of STAMPALIA, is little more than seven leagues in circuit. Its first name was MEMBLIAROS; which it derived from MEMBLIARES, the Phœnician, who, when his relation CADMUS went in quest of EUROPA, accompanied him, and settled in the neighbouring Island of THERA. It has since been named ANAPHE, a Phœnician word, which, according to BOCHART, signifies shaded and dark, an epithet which this island had obtained from its gloomy and thick forests. However, the most common opinion is, that it owes this name of ANAPHE to the Greek word *phaino*, which means *to appear*, from the thunder having on a sudden occasioned it to rise from the bottom of the waters, in order to

to receive the fleet of the Argonauts on its return from COLCHIS, when assailed by a furious tempest. This fable of antiquity is the history of the formation of NANFIO, which a volcano caused to appear suddenly above the sea, in the midst of a violent agitation of the atmosphere and of the waves, as has happened to some other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO.

In memory of this event was built a temple, which was consecrated to APOLLO *ÆGLETES*, or dazzling with light. Mirth, wine, and pleasantries, presided at the festivals which were here celebrated. Slight vestiges of this temple are still to be found on the place which it occupied, in the south part of the island; and the marble of which it was constructed was taken from a very steep rock, of a frightful aspect, on whose summit is seen a chapel, dedicated to *Our Lady of the Reed*; in modern Greek, *Panagia Kalamotisa*.

The tufted forests, which are said to have darkened the surface of the island, have disappeared; and there are now to be found only some scattered shrubs. Its mountains are barren and naked, and its plains afford not a vegetation much more brilliant. Agriculture there languishes; and, notwithstanding the goodness of the soil, barley is almost the only plant which there produces any harvest. Some small plantations of vines yield good wine, and honey is common. *TOURNEFORT* relates, that partridges multiplied there so prodigiously, that, in order to preserve the corn, the inhabitants, by direction of the magistrates, collect all the eggs that can be found about the Easter holidays, and which commonly amount to upwards of ten or twelve thousand; these are made into all sorts of sauces, and especially into omelets: "however, notwithstanding this precaution," says *TOURNEFORT*, "we put up covies of partridges at every step*." I

* *Relation d'un Voyage du Levant*, vol. i. 4to. page 276.

had not an opportunity of ascertaining whether this great quantity of partridges exist at NANFIO at the present day. They are, in general, very common in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but, however, not so much so as they were in the last-mentioned isle, in the time of TOURNEFORT.

The partridges of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are of the red species*: they there live on the mountains and in the midst of the bushes; they are sometimes seen perched on trees, which is never the case with gray partridges. The sportsmen of the LEVANT have observed that these birds, when they run, always go up hill. They are the most common game in those countries, where they are sold at a very low price; their flesh is more savoury than that of the gray partridges.

A small town, built to the south, contains the whole population of NANFIO; every thing bespeaks the wretchedness spread over the territory of the island. Here is no harbour; but, in front of the town, ships find a very good roadstead, protected by a small shoal, which is called NANFIO-POULO, LITTLE NANFIO.

The Isle of NIO, more fertile, and at the same time more celebrated, lies to the west of NANFIO, and to the south of AMORGOS. It is in the harbour of this island, known by the ancients under the name of *Ios*, because it was peopled by Ionians, that HOMER expired, in his voyage from SAMOS to ATHENS. The inhabitants, in honour of him, erected a tomb, of which there are no longer any vestiges, in like manner as the modern Greeks have lost all remembrance of the honourable interment which their ancestors bestowed on the most famous poet of antiquity.

* *Perdrix rouge*. BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux, et planche enluminée, No. 150.—
Tetrao rufus. Var. 6. LINN.

The present town, which bears the same name as the island, is built on an eminence, and, probably, on the spot which was occupied by the ancient city. Nothing remarkable is there to be found, unless it be the hospitable character of those who reside there; they shew to strangers great attention, and the most obliging behaviour; and, on quitting them, every one is impressed with the best opinion of their generous affability*. The women, on their part, likewise embellish this abode by their charms, their kindness, and their virtues.

The French had a consul in this place; but, since the system has prevailed of uniting, or, to speak more correctly, of limiting our commerce to the large sea-ports, vessels have ceased to frequent the excellent harbour of Nio, and the government to maintain there a superintendant, whose presence became useless in the plan which had been formed, and which was far from being the most advantageous for commerce.

The interior of the island, less hilly than the soil of the greater part of those of which I have spoken, produces abundance of wheat, part of which the inhabitants export for sale. Cupidity, want of foresight, the eager desire of enjoyment, more conspicuous among men who live in oppression and misfortune, and who have only to look forward to a future that is doubtful, have induced the inhabitants to fell the fine woods which covered some districts; so that Nio, after having supplied the neighbouring islands, is at present almost entirely destitute. But the mildness of the climate renders not this scarcity of wood distressing; the

* TOURNEFORT (*Voyage au Levant*) has described the Niots as thieves and robbers; but either this author was not acquainted with them, or they have greatly changed, since the period of his Travels. It is probable that then there were at Nio some remains of the colony which a Duke of Naxia, to whom the island belonged, introduced there, and which was composed of Albanians, a tribe of Greeks, warlike, restless, and inclined to robbery.

inhabitants never have occasion to seek the fire-side, and the lentisks, and other shrubs which grow there, suffice for the wants of cookery. On the whole, Nio is a very agreeable and quiet place of residence.

I happened to be there on the day when the Greeks celebrate, in the spring, the festival of ST. GREGORY, a festival that they consecrate, in a manner, to cock-roaches, disgusting and troublesome insects, which are very common in these countries during the summer*. The day before, every family ought to have laid in their stock of water and herbs; were any to be brought in on that day, it would be imagined that the house would be filled with cock-roaches. This precaution is, nevertheless, insufficient for conjuring away those insects: every head of a family must procure two or three of them, which he shuts up in a hollow reed, and throws them into the sea, at the same time uttering a thousand curses. Although long experience has demonstrated the inefficacy of this ceremony and of these imprecations, there is not a single Greek of Nio, and of several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, who annually, on such a day, does not observe them scrupulously, though not a year passes without their houses being infested with cock-roaches in the summer: so blind is superstition, when time and ignorance have allowed it to take deep root!

Another precaution full as useless, but which is not, on that account, the less observed by the Greeks of the same islands, is that by which they every year note the day when the festival of ST. JOHN the Baptist falls. They are particularly careful not to undertake any thing the same day of the week, during the whole year, because they are persuaded that a work, a voyage, any business whatever, begun at this period, would infallibly miscarry, or have a very unfortunate issue.

* *Blatta Orientalis* LINN. The modern Greeks call it *katsarida*.

The dress of the women of NIO is much the same as that of the women of AMORGOS, and of most of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. But at NIO, they do not, as at AMORGOS, conceal part of their handsome face, by an intrusive piece of cloth: their features are entirely exposed to view, their forehead is uncovered, and the shawl, with which their head is enveloped, exhibits a sort of crescent of beautiful black hair, glossy as jet, and soft as silk.

I shall remark, on this occasion, that the size, and consequently the coarseness of the hair, appears to depend on the severity of the climate: Negroes have wool, and I have never seen any where hair so fine as on the head of the greater part of the women of the EAST.

We might make an exception against the garments of the women of NIO, and of the other islands where they are accustomed to wear any of the same description, for not reaching sufficiently low, and being repugnant to decency. Their petticoat, in fact, comes only to the knees; but in this defect of length, which, added to the forms of the other parts of the dress, has something whimsical and grotesque, there is nothing immodest. If, in our country, the idea of impropriety and effrontery accompanies a woman whose legs are not covered, at least in a great measure, by long garments, it is that the legs, although dressed, are, with our women, immediately connected with parts which are not, and which decency strictly conceals from view. But what it reprobates among us, cannot alarm in the EAST. There, all the women are completely clothed; they all wear drawers, which permit them not to embarrass their legs by long petticoats.

The Turkish women, and the female Greeks of the large towns, make use of long and ample drawers, which come down to their heels; they even

even wear them double: the under pair is of linen or cotton, and that which appears is of linen or silk. The drawers of the women of the ARCHIPELAGO are plain, short, and, most commonly, made of cotton. Like those of the Turkish women, and rich female inhabitants of the cities and towns, they are in like manner confined, above the hips, by a girdle of knit silk or cotton, passed through a noose, and fastened in front by a long running knot: they are also very ample; but they do not reach beyond the knee, under which they are confined with strings that are covered by the stockings. The women are in the habit of tying these strings so tight, at the top of the calf of the leg, that their impression becomes sufficiently deep and broad to admit the finger. This custom of clothing themselves more completely has, methinks, great advantages for the health of the women: adopted by ours, it would save them from a crowd of disorders, which may very probably have no other cause than their having neglected it, and by this, decency would, doubtless, be no loser.

The garments of the women of the Island of SANTORIN have more regularity, and are longer, than those of which I have just spoken; their head is covered by a rolled shawl, twisted in the form of a turban, and which, most commonly, passes under the chin. Their principal occupation is to spin cotton, which grows very well in that country, and serves for the manufacture of cloths, known in the LEVANT by the names of dimities and *escamites*, an important branch of industry, and the principal trade of that famous island.

It is well known that SANTORIN, formerly *THERA*, and more anciently *CALLISTA*, a word which signifies the *Handsome*, has experienced singular changes from the effect of subterraneous fires. Emerged from the bosom of the sea, it was afterwards partly swallowed up in the year 237 before

the Christian era, and separated from *THERASIA*, a small island at this day called *ASPRONISI*. The space contained between those two islands, and at present filled by the sea, made, according to the well-founded opinion of a judicious observer*, a part of *THERA*, or of the large island, which, at the time of this revolution, assumed the form of a crescent. Indeed, the coast of that gulf, composed of steep rocks, black, calcined, and towering upwards of three hundred feet above the level of the sea, appears to be the edge of an enormous crater, the bottom of which has never been fathomed.

Several other revolutions happened successively in the same place; and the terrifying scenes of the great convulsions of Nature have been renewed there repeatedly: an earthquake was felt forty years after the Islands of *THERA* and *THERASIA* were separated. The waters boiled up, and a new island rose above the sea, and all at once presented itself to the eyes of astonished navigators†. This little island was called *KIERA*, sacred, no doubt, on account of its origin, which bordered on a prodigy, and which occasioned it to be consecrated to the god of hell. The nature of the calcined substances of which it is formed has since obtained it the name of *KAMMENI*, or the *Burnt Island*.

Subterraneous commotions, convulsions, and other phenomena, terrified the men of these countries, at different times, and produced on the land changes more or less considerable, till the year 1743, when another island suddenly appeared above the surface of the waters. In order to distin-

* M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, *Voyage Pittoresque de Grèce*, vol. ii. pages 322 and 323.

† JUSTIN. book xxx. chap. iv. *note*, that PLINY (Hist. Nat. lib. ii. cap. lxxxvii.) says, improperly, that this event took place one hundred and thirty years after that which gave birth to the Isle of *Therasia*.

guish it from the former, which is the larger, the Greeks have named it *MICRI KAMMENI*, or the *Little Burnt Island*.

Lastly, at the beginning of the century which has just elapsed, a new islet appeared between the Great and the Little KAMMENI, about a league from SANTORIN. It was on the 23rd of May, 1707, at break of day, that were perceived the commencements of this other production of the subterraneous fires which burn in these parts. On the 18th of the same month, there had been felt at SANTORIN, two slight shocks of an earthquake. No great attention was paid to them at the time; but, in the sequel, there was reason to suppose that, at that moment, the new islet was beginning to detach itself from the bottom of the sea, and to rise towards its surface. Be this as it may, some Greeks belonging to SANTORIN having, very early in the morning, seen the first points of the growing island, imagined that these might be the remains of some shipwreck, which the sea had brought during the night. In hopes of being the first to avail themselves of them, they hastened to reach them; but, no sooner had they discovered that, in lieu of pieces of a floating wreck, these were black and calcined rocks, than they returned, quite frightened, publishing every where what they had just seen.

The fright was general in the whole Island of SANTORIN; it was well known there that these sudden appearances of new lands had always been attended by great disasters. Nevertheless, two or three days having passed without any thing fatal happening, some of the inhabitants of SANTORIN came to a resolution of making observations on the very spot. Having landed, curiosity induced them to proceed from rock to rock; they found every where a sort of white stone which might be cut like bread, and which so well imitated it in figure, colour, and consistency, that, with the exception of the taste, it might have been taken for real wheaten

wheaten bread. What pleased them and astonished them more, was a quantity of fresh oysters adhering to the rocks, a circumstance very uncommon at SANTORIN. While these Greeks were amusing themselves with eating the oysters, they all at once felt the rocks move, and the ground tremble under their feet; terror soon made them abandon their repast, in order to jump into their boat, and row away as hard as they could pull. This shock was a motion of the island, which was increasing, and which, at that moment, visibly rose, having, in a very few days, gained near twenty feet in height, and twice as much in breadth.

As this motion, by which the new island was daily becoming higher and broader, was not always equal, accordingly it did not increase every day equally on all sides. It even frequently happened that it fell and diminished in one place, while it rose and spread in another. One day, in particular, a rock very remarkable from its size and figure, having issued from the sea, forty or fifty paces from the middle of the island, sunk at the expiration of four days into the water, and appeared no more. This was not the case with some other rocks which, after having made their appearance, and concealed themselves at various times, at length reappeared and remained fixed. These different commotions violently shook the Little KAMMENI, and, on its summit, was remarked a long fissure, which had not been seen there before. During this time, the sea of the gulf several times changed its colour; it first became of a dazzling green, then of a reddish hue, and at last of a pale yellow, and constantly emitted a great stench.

On the 16th of July, smoke was seen, for the first time, to issue, not from the part of the island that appeared, but from a chain of black rocks, which rose all on a sudden sixty yards from that spot, and from a part of the sea where no bottom had been found; this, for some time, formed

as it were two separate islands, one of which was called the *White Island*, and the other, the *Black Island*, on account of their different colour; but which ere long were again united to each other, yet in such a manner that those black rocks which last sprang up became the centre of the whole island. The smoke which issued from the chain of black rocks was thick and whitish, like that which issues from several lime-kilns thrown into one. The wind carried it over one of the habitations situated at the extremity of the gulf, and it did not there occasion much inconvenience: its smell too was not particularly obnoxious.

In the night between the 19th and 20th, flames of fire were seen to rise from the middle of this smoke, which caused the inhabitants of SANTORIN great apprehension. This fire, nevertheless, was also little to be feared, since it issued only from a single point of the Black Island, and did not appear at all during the day.

Neither fire nor smoke was ever seen on the White Island; yet, notwithstanding, it continued constantly to grow larger; but the Black Island increased far more quickly. Every day were seen to arise big rocks, which one while rendered it longer, another while broader; and this in so perceptible a manner, that it was noticed from one moment to another. Sometimes these rocks were joined to the island, sometimes they were very remote from it; so that in less than a month were reckoned as many as four little black islands, which, in four days, were united to each other, and then formed but one. It was likewise remarked that the smoke had greatly increased, and that, no wind blowing at the time, it ascended so high that it was seen from CANDIA, from NAXIA, and from other distant islands. During the night, this smoke always appeared fiery to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and the sea was covered with a reddish substance or froth in some places, and yellowish in others. So great a degree

degree of putrefaction spread through all SANTORIN, that the inhabitants were obliged to burn perfumes, and to kindle fires in the streets. This infection lasted only a day and a half. A very fresh south-west wind dispelled it; but in driving away one evil, it introduced another. It carried this burning smoke over a great part of the best vineyards of SANTORIN, the grapes of which were almost ripe, and which, in one night, were all scorched. It was likewise remarked, that wherever this smoke was carried, it blackened silver and copper, and occasioned the inhabitants violent head-aches, accompanied by strong nausea. At that time, the White Island settled and sunk all at once upwards of ten feet.

On the 31st of July, it was discovered that the sea cast forth smoke and boiled up in two places, the one at thirty, and the other at sixty yards from the Black Island. In these two spaces, each of which formed a perfect circle, the water appeared like oil on the fire. This lasted upwards of a month, during which were found a great many dead fishes.

The following night was heard a hollow noise, like the report of several cannon fired at a distance; and almost immediately issued from the middle of the crater two long sheets of fire, which ascended very high, and were directly extinguished.

On the 1st of August, the same hollow noise was heard repeatedly. It was followed by a smoke, not white as before, but of a bluish black, and which, notwithstanding a very fresh northerly wind, rose in the form of a pillar to a prodigious elevation.

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On the 7th of August, the noise which was heard was no longer so hollow: it was similar to that of several large heaps of stones falling all at once into a deep well. The extremities of the island were thought to be in continual motion, and the rocks which formed them coming and going, disappearing and then re-appearing. This noise, after having lasted several days, changed into another considerably louder. It resembled thunder in such a manner, that, when it really thundered, which happened three or four times, there was no great difference between the one and the other.

On the 21st of August, the fire and smoke diminished considerably. There even appeared but very little during the night; but, at break of day, they resumed more strength than they had before possessed. The smoke was red and very thick, and the fire which issued was so fierce, that the sea round the Black Island smoked and boiled up in a surprising manner.

On the morning of the 22d, the island was become much higher than it was the day before. A chain of rocks, of nearly fifty feet, had greatly increased its breadth. The sea was again covered with that reddish foam already mentioned, which emitted every where an intolerable stench.

On the 3th of September, the fire opened itself a passage at the extremity of the Black Island, at the same time inclining towards THERASTIA. The fire issued thence for some days only, during which less came out of the great crater.

Had the inquietude, with which every one was affected night and day, then allowed of the inhabitants of SANTORIN being alive to any diver-

sion, the sight which they then enjoyed would have been entertaining. Thrice there arose from the great crater, as it were, three of the largest sky-rockets of a fire the most brilliant and the most beautiful. On the following nights it was quite another thing. After the usual reports of the subterraneous thunder, all at once were seen going off, as it were, long sheaves sparkling with a million of lights, which, following each other, ascended to a very great height, then fell again in showers of stars on the island, which thence appeared quite illuminated. This spectacle was a little disturbed by a new phenomenon. From the middle of these sky-rockets, there became detached a very long lance of fire, which, after having remained some time motionless over the castle of SCARO, was lost in the clouds.

On the 9th of September, the two islands, the White Island and the Black one, by dint of increasing each in breadth, began to meet and to form but one body. After this junction, the extremity of the island to the south-west increased no more either in length or height, whereas the other extremity to the west did not cease to lengthen very perceptibly.

Of all the openings, there were now but four which emitted any fire. Sometimes the smoke issued with impetuosity from all together, sometimes only from one or two; one while with noise, another without, but almost always with a whistling, which might have been taken for the various sounds of the pipes of an organ, and sometimes for the howling of wild beasts.

On the 12th of September, the subterraneous noise, which naturally seemed likely to be no longer so violent, having to spread between four openings, was never so frightful, nor so frequent as on that day and the

following. The loud and repeated claps, similar to the general discharge of a numerous and heavy train of artillery, were heard ten or twelve times in the course of twenty-four hours; and, a moment after, there issued from the great crater stones of an enormous size, quite red hot, which were thrown to a great distance, and lost in the sea. These loud claps were always accompanied by a thick smoke, which flew up into the air in undulating figures, and which, when it dispersed, spread every where big clouds of ashes, some of which were carried in eddies as far as ANASI, an island twenty-five miles distant from SANTORIN. These ashes appeared white on the Black Island, and almost black on the White one; they had the figure and the grain of fine powder; but, thrown into the fire, they produced only a few slight crepitations, without emitting the smallest flame.

On the 18th of September, there was at SANTORIN an earthquake which occasioned no damage. The island was considerably increased by it, as well as the fire and smoke, which, on that day and the following night, opened to themselves new passages. Till then, so many fires together had not been seen, nor had such loud reports been heard: their violence was so extraordinary, that the houses of SCARO were shaken by it. Through thick volumes of smoke, which appeared like a mountain, was heard the loud noise of an infinite number of huge stones, which whizzed in the air like large cannon-balls, and fell afterwards on the island and into the sea, with a crash which made all who heard it shudder. The little KAMMENI was several times covered with these burning stones, which rendered it quite resplendent.

On the 21st of September, the little KAMMENI being thus quite in a blaze, after one of those furious shocks just mentioned, there thence arose three large flashes of lightning, which, in the twinkling of an eye, tra-

verfied all the horizon of the fea. At the fame instant, there occurred fo great a fhaking of the whole new ifland, that the half of its great crater fell in, and there were huge burning ftones, of a prodigious maf, which were driven to the diftance of upwards of two miles. It was thought that this violent and laft effort had at length exhausted the mine. Four days of calm and tranquillity, during which was feen no appearance of fire and fmoke, contributed not a little to ftrengthen this idea; but the inhabitants had not, as they had imagined, as yet witneffed the moft alarming period.

On the 24th of September, the fire refumed all its ftrength, and the ifland became more formidable than ever. Among the claps, almoft continual, and which were fo violent that two perfons, fpeaking to each other, could with difficulty make themfelves heard, there fuddenly occurred one fo dreadful, that it made every body run to the churches. The big rock, on which SCARO is built, tottered, and all the doors of the houfes were forcibly thrown open.

Every thing continued in the fame ftate during the months of October, November, and December 1707, and January 1708. Not a day paffed without the great crater making an explofion at leaft once or twice, and moft frequently five or fix times.

On the 10th of February 1708, about eight o'clock in the morning, there was at SANTORIN a rather violent fhock of an earthquake. In the courfe of the night, there had been one much flighter, which induced the opinion, from the experience of the paff, that the volcano was again preparing fome terrible fcene. It was not long in coming. Fire, flame, fmoke, reports the moft terrific, all was horrible. Large rocks of a frightful maf, which till then had appeared only even with the water's edge,

edge, rose very high; and the boiling up of the sea increased to such an excess, that although the spectators were accustomed to all this uproar, there was no one who was not struck with horror. The subterraneous roarings no longer came by intervals; they lasted day and night without intermission. The great crater burst even five or six times in a quarter of an hour, and gave reports which, from their repetition, from the quantity and the bigness of the stones that flew about, from the shaking of the houses, and from the great fire that appeared in open day, which had not yet been seen, surpassed every thing that had preceded.

The 15th of April was remarkable, among all the other days, from the number and the fury of those terrible shocks; so that, for a long time, seeing nothing but fire, fiery smoke, and large pieces of rock, which filled the air, all the inhabitants of SANTORIN thought that it was all over, and that the island was blown up. Yet no such thing had occurred, and there was but the half of the circumference of the great crater which had fallen in once more, and which, in an instant, again became higher than it was, by the heap of ashes and big stones by which it was repaired.

From that day till the 23d of May, which was the anniversary of the birth of the island, every thing continued nearly on the same footing. What was particularly remarked, was, that the island constantly increased in height, and scarcely increased any more in breadth. The great opening or large crater rose very high; and from the melted substances which cemented its fabric, was gradually formed, as it were, a great pasty, with a very broad slope.

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In the sequel, every thing became still by degrees. The fire and smoke diminished, the subterraneous thunder became tolerable, and its bursts, though still frequent, were no longer so frightful.

On the 15th of July, the day being fine, the sea calm, and the fire very moderate, some persons belonging to SANTORIN wished to have a near view of the new island. They took care to provide themselves with a boat well caulked, and whose seams were filled with oakum strongly cinched. They went straight to that side of the island where the sea did not boil up, but where it smoked very much. Scarcely had the inquisitive party reached this smoke, than they all felt a suffocating heat, which affected them. They put their hands into the water, and found it scalding; they were as yet, however, only within five hundred yards of the land. There not being a probability of their proceeding farther that way, they turned towards the point most distant from the great crater, and at which the island had constantly increased in length. The fire, which was still there, and the sea, which boiled up with fury, obliged them to take a long circuit; even yet they felt a violent heat. They landed on the Great KAMMENI, whence they had the convenience of examining, without much danger, all the real length of the island, and particularly the side which they had not been able to see from SCARO. The island, with respect to its oblong figure, might probably then be two hundred feet in its greatest height, a mile and upwards in its greatest breadth, and about five miles in circumference.

After this examination, the observers again felt a strong desire to approach the island, and to attempt once more to land there, at the place called, for a long time, the *White Island*. For several months this place
had

had no longer increased, and never, during that time, had either fire or smoke been remarked. When they were within two hundred yards of it, they perceived that, by dipping the hand into the water, the more they approached, the warmer it became. They hove the lead; all the line, which was ninety-five fathoms long, was employed, without finding any bottom. They were within two hundred yards of the island, and while they were deliberating whether they should advance farther, or turn back, the great crater began to play with its usual crash and impetuosity. The wind, which was fresh, carried over the boat the thick cloud of ashes and smoke which thence issued; the persons who were in it were quite covered with these, which made them think of rowing off very quickly, and also very opportunely; for they were scarcely a mile and a half from the island, before the hurly-burly soon recommenced, and the crater threw into the place which they had just quitted a quantity of fiery stones. On arriving at SANTORIN, it was discovered that the great heat of the water had melted almost all the pitch from the seams of the boat, which began to open on all sides.

Till the 15th of August, of the same year, 1708, the island vomited fire, smoke, and burning stones, always with a great noise, yet less than that of the preceding months.

This account of a judicious eye-witness, on the subject of a very extraordinary event, which happened in our time, has appeared to me too interesting not to be related almost from beginning to end, with the more reason, as it is to be found only in a rather scarce collection, entitled "*Les Mémoires des Missions de la Compagnie de Jésus dans le Levant*.*"

* Vol. i. pages 126 and following.

After the author of the account had quitted *SANTORIN*, the new island risen from the sea in the gulf, between the Great and the Little *KAMMENI*, continued for a long time to cast forth flames, a thick smoke, and large masses of stones. But the explosions successively became less frequent and less violent; they at length ceased, and nothing more was heard but the hollow noise of the boiling up of the substances which the subterraneous fires keep in fusion, at an immense depth, in the bowels of the earth.

The volcano is at present in a state of inaction, at least externally; the small island is quiet, but its aspect has still something frightful. At a distance, it appears quite black; if you approach it, you there find the medley of substances decomposed by fire and fallen again confusedly, after having been driven into the air with a crash; it is surrounded by torrents of sulphur; every thing there is burnt or calcined; every thing there bears the impression of those terrible conflagrations, with which Nature has burnt the very bosom of the globe; every thing there retraces the preface of fresh catastrophes, of fresh eruptions.

Symptoms so frightful, convulsions so violent, which nothing can resist, and which mock the power and the precautions of mankind, were, doubtless, sufficient to strike the superstitious and weak imagination of the Greeks. The new island is in their eyes the work of hell; demons have there established their abode; they there set up a dreadful uproar; and, impelled by a diabolical malignity, they make a pastime of letting go the cables of vessels which mariners have the temerity to make fast to it. The Greek bishop of *SANTORIN* goes thither sometimes, to display the power of exorcism; and though the noise does not discontinue, and vessels and boats are as frequently set adrift, the prelate enjoys the satisfaction of
seeing

seeing his credulous flock thoroughly convinced of the efficacy of his pious ceremonies.

But this uproar, which holy water cannot appease, is owing to the very nature of the new island. It is sometimes the hollow and deep roaring of the volcano, and almost always the shock of the waves against the partitions of cavities entirely formed of calcined and sonorous rocks. The piercing cry of mews, gulls, and other birds which there take refuge, on the approach of any new object, are blended with sounds loud and mournful, because they issue from deep caverns; and this discordance of grave and sharp tones forms, indeed, an uproar worthy of hell itself, which, nevertheless, has no more to do with it than with the cables of the vessels, that lose their hold from a cause equally simple and equally natural. In fact, the prominent points, which present greater facility for making fast to them the moorings, belong to rocks burnt and of no great consistency, which the motion of the vessel causes to break easily, as soon as she is agitated by the wind or waves.

The new island is about a league in circumference. All round, but very close to it, the depth of water is from thirty to thirty-five fathoms: farther off, no bottom is to be found. From the rocks of the island is frequently detached a quantity of fragments of pumice-stone, which, floating on the surface of the sea, are driven on the coasts of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where I have seen several of them cast on shore, being swept away by the winds. The quantity of these light productions of volcanoes, thrown up by the new island, was so considerable during the beginning of its astonishing appearance, that the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO was covered with them, and several harbours were choked

up to such a degree, that no vessel, however small, could get out, unless a passage were cleared for her by means of poles*.

Mould, or vegetable earth, does not yet cover, in any place, a calcined soil, whose superficies has been exposed to the air and the rains only for too short a time past to be decomposed by these agents, so active, but as slow as those of its formation were quick and impetuous. The Little KAMMENI, where are seen six craters by which the volcano vomited forth the substances that compose it, is equally naked and barren; but the Great KAMMENI, more ancient, is covered with a thin stratum of a dust, which allows a few herbs to grow in it. The Isle of *Aspronisi*, the *Therasia* of the ancients, is clothed with verdure, and on it are seen a few trees thinly scattered.

In these seas, the theatre of the most surprising operations of Nature, we must expect new catastrophes, as well as the sudden appearance of new lands. A shoal, the foundation of an island, gains in height from day to day. Not a hundred years since there were on it eighteen fathoms water; when I visited these parts, there were no more than five or six; and this ground, in all probability, has since risen much more.

Lands, resting on numerous cavities, the walls of which are deficcated and without consistency, which gulfs, where a terrible and lasting fire is kept up, undermine and consume, are necessarily exposed to commotions and convulsions; and these shocks are sometimes felt at sea, at a rather considerable distance from the islands. An officer of the navy, very worthy

* See THEVENOT, *Relation d'un Voyage au Levant*, 4to. chap. lxviii. page 204.

of credit, who, in 1775, commanded the *HIRONDELLE* vessel of war, related to me, that, being at sea pretty well in with the Island of SANTORIN, and to the west of it, he experienced, during the night, very violent effects of an earthquake. The mass of the waters was so shaken by it, that the vessel received some very violent shocks, which spread an alarm among the crew, and made them suppose that she had struck on a sunken rock. The animals contained in the ship, sheep, dogs, and poultry, began at the same time to cry in an extraordinary manner, and, by their agitation and their clamours, manifested that they partook of the terror by which the men were struck.

However, earthquakes are less frequent at SANTORIN, in our time, than they were at the periods when the volcanoes displayed the terrible activity of their subterraneous fires; those great phenomena of Nature no longer spread terror there but at remote intervals. We are ignorant at what epoch the island dropped the name of *CALLISTA*, in order to assume that of *THERA*, or at what time it began to be called *SANT ERINI*, from the name of St. IRENA, the patroness of the island. Of *SANT ERINI* has been made SANTORIN. Be this as it may, if in former times this country deserved the name of *CALLISTE*, the *Beautiful Island*, we may at this day give it, with full as good reason, that of hideous. On all sides, is seen there the action of volcanoes; every thing is consumed by fire, calcined, thrown out, and heaped up in horrible confusion. Enormous masses of burnt rocks, of a blackish gray, inaccessible, and scarcely to be approached, surround it towards the sea; at their foot are bottomless gulfs; in the interior, lava, pumice-stones, pozzolana; every volcanic substance there forms the soil: no woods, no rivers, no rivulets; it is an appendage which fire seems to have condemned to an eternal aridity.

We should not, indeed, expect to meet with fertile districts amidst all the elements of sterility. Corn of various species grows very well on strata of ashes and pumice-stones; cotton thrives there equally well; fruit trees there take root, and diffuse some agreeableness; in short, beautiful vineyards there produce wines much esteemed, but sulphurous, which, with cotton and the fine calicoes that are there manufactured, render SANTORIN one of the most trading islands in the ARCHIPELAGO. At the time when TOURNEFORT travelled, the French had a consul there; but he has been withdrawn with the trade which they carried on at this island. Two bishops, one of the Greek church, and the other of the Latin, guide their respective flocks, at the same time harassing each other incessantly, and disputing on matters which the one understands no better than the other. FRANCE maintained there Jesuits and Capuchins, who scarcely agreed better than the bishops.

The inhabitants have no other water than that of cisterns: it is also in this calcined rock, of a consistence so slight, that they build or rather excavate their houses, the greater part of which have an arched roof. SANTORIN, without being precisely an unwholesome place of residence, is not exempt from dangers. The volcanic vapours which are there inhaled, affect the health, and those who remain long exposed to them, are subject to consumptive complaints.

On the south part of SANTORIN was built, on the summit of a mountain, called in our days *St. Stephen's Mountain*, a flourishing town, the capital of the island, whose name of *THERA* it bore. Its ruins still attest its ancient magnificence. Here was a temple dedicated to NEPTUNE, and another to APOLLO, to whom the whole island was consecrated. TOURNE-

FORT mentions some inscriptions of THERA*, and CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER gives the drawings of fragments of superb monuments, and, in particular, of two large statues, which are spoken of in the inscriptions, and which the people of THERA had erected in honour of the Emperors MARCUS AURELIUS and ANTONINUS. These statues, of tolerably handsome execution, are in marble, but at present are headless†, and lying on the ground.

A singular custom, which is not to be met with in the history of any other people, was established at THERA. They neither mourned for children who died before seven years of age, nor for men who died turned of fifty; the latter, because they had probably lived long enough; and the former, because it was not thought that they had yet entered into life‡.

The most agreeable place in SANTORIN is PYRGOS, a small town built on a little hill, whence is discovered the two seas, and the most beautiful districts of the island. At the foot of this hill is a cove, fit only for the reception of the boats of the country, and indeed they are not there always in safety; for when the wind and the sea rise and are agitated, they are forced to abandon it, and gain a small bay, more sheltered and more safe, to the northward of Cape APANOMERIA, and under another small town which bears the name of SAN NICOLO. The latter is situated on a lofty eminence, formed of enormous groups of burnt rocks, standing per-

* *Voyage au Levant*, vol. i. page 272.

† *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, vol. i. page 37, and plate XLIX.

‡ *Idem*, *ibid.*

pendicular on the margin of the abyfs of the fea, and threatening to engulf themfelves there with the inhabitants, who have eftablifhed their refidence on a bafe fo unſubſtantial, and whoſe aſpect inſpires horror.

Between SAN NICOLO and PYRGOS, at the extremity of the horfe-ſhoe which the Iſland of SANTORIN forms to the weſt, and on a point which projects towards the KAMMENI Iſlands, ſtands the caſtle of SCARO, whoſe ſituation is ſtill more frightful than that of SAN NICOLO. The rocks of this narrow cape are likewise calcined, but higher and more ſhattered than in any place on the coaſt; ſo that SCARO appears half-ſuſpended, above horrible precipices which terminate at the ſea; while a part of theſe ſame rocks, almoſt reduced to aſhes, overlooks the little town on one ſide, and threatens every moment to crush it.

PYRGOS, SAN NICOLO, and SCARO, are the only three places of any conſequence in the Iſle of SANTORIN: there are ſome villages in the interior, and the whole population, aſſembled, may form a maſs of eight or ten thouſand inhabitants, induſtrious and active; but, like their biſhops, frequently divided by religious opinions, and exaſperated againſt each other, ſome being catholics, and others declared heretics; all very credulous, very headſtrong in matters of theology, and endeavouring continually to extend their creed and their domination, at the expenſe of their adverſaries.

The inhabitants of SANTORIN ſhare, with thoſe of a great number of other iſlands, the advantage of having no Turks among them. Their coaſts affording no harbours and places for anchoring, they are not frequented by ſhips of war belonging to the Ottoman navy, and ſcarcely ever by corſairs. In paying the tribute which is exacted from them, they
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are less tormented than many other islanders, and they can give themselves up, with greater safety and tranquillity, to the labours of culture and the concerns of their traffic.

These industrious Greeks were so fully sensible of the value of this sort of liberty, acquired by the situation of their island, that they employed, within these few years, every means imaginable to prevail on two learned travellers, OLIVIER and BRUGUIÈRE, not to abandon them to the barbarous fiscal power of the Turks, by causing to be worked in their island the *pozzolana*, of excellent quality, which is there to be found in abundance, and which was intended for constructing, in the harbour of CONSTANTINOPLE, a basin on the plan of that of TOULON*. No doubt, very commendable motives of public interest and personal generosity determined those learned travellers to reject the offers of the Greeks of SANTORIN, as they had before refused the proposals, very advantageous, but of another kind, made to them by some Armenians. In this, as in many other circumstances, the laws of humanity could not tally with the rules of policy. Officers belonging to the Ottoman Porte came into the midst of the inhabitants of SANTORIN, to employ violence and injustice, for the purpose of taking them from peaceable and profitable labours, and of compelling them to extract the volcanic substance, the beginning of a local tyranny, which, till then, they had had the happiness to avoid, and of a lasting hatred against the French, whom they will long consider as the authors of their misfortune.

* Report of Travels performed, by order of the government, in the Ottoman Empire, Egypt, and Persia, during the first six years of the Republic, read to the National Institute by Citizen OLIVIER, associated member, in the sitting of the 26th Pluviose.—*Magasin Encyclop.* fourth year, vol. vi. No. xxii. page 196.

The Isle of SANTORIN is by no means broad, and may be estimated at seven or eight leagues in circuit. From the top of its mountains is discovered the Island of CANDIA, which is distant from it about eighteen leagues. Two leagues to the south-west of SANTORIN, lie two islets, little known, because they are altogether uninteresting, and respecting which it was not in my power to procure any information. They are named the *Great* and the *Little CHRISTIANA*.

CHAPTER XVI.

Island of Candia.—Advantages of its position.—Peculiar direction in which it lies, and conjectures respecting its formation.—Canea.—Savary.—His abilities, his character, his amiableness.—French consuls at Canea.—The Author meets with one of his countrywomen.—Olive-oil.—Capuchin.—Provençal renegado.—Janizary.—Greek monks.

THRICE have I visited the Island of CANDIA; thrice have I landed on the shores of that famous country, which, under the name of CRETE, was rendered illustrious by the institutions of MINOS, the hundred cities which it contained, and the courage of its inhabitants; which, in times less remote, became the magnificent domain of the Republic of VENICE, and the theatre of the signal valour of its armies; and which at length shares the common lot of misfortune attached to every country subject to the monstrous domination of the Ottomans.

My first visit to this island was in the ATALANTE frigate, on board of which I failed to EGYPT; the polacre in which I embarked at ALEXANDRIA landed me there a second time; and I returned thither once more in the MIGNONNE, another frigate, commanded by D'ENTRECASTEAUX. I have availed myself of the stay, more or less long, which I made there: and, without dwelling on the periods of these different voyages, or subjecting myself to give distinct details of them, I shall compress into one single point the remarks which I collected at these different periods.

The Island of CANDIA is the largest in the MEDITERRANEAN, of which its position seems to insure it the empire and the commerce. It is, in fact, at no great distance from AFRICA, ASIA, and EUROPE: some of its harbours are equally good and spacious; it would be an easy matter to prepare there expeditions for the three quarters of the globe. Its inhabitants are numerous and active; the very diversified productions of its territory possess the qualities calculated to bring them into request; the nature of its soil, the mildness of its climate, promise comfort and agreeableness; and this country might be again, as in very ancient times, the *Island of the blessed**, if the laws of MINOS, which HOMER considered as emanating from JUPITER himself†, could once more govern a people, whose ancient greatness has been effaced under the impression of a disgraceful servitude.

Like the greater part of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, this is much longer than broad; it is reckoned to be two hundred leagues in circumference; it is partly situated under the 35th degree of latitude, and is comprised between the 24th and 27th degrees of longitude‡. But what has hitherto escaped remark, but which, nevertheless, is an important observation, is, that all the other islands of the same sea lie, with respect to their length, in a north and south direction, with more or less inclination towards the east or west; whereas the Island of CANDIA extends from east to west; it appears to be a long base, on which the whole ARCHIPELAGO reposes. This peculiar direction indicates a different origin. The islands of the ÆGEAN SEA are the summits of mountains, which belong to a country whose plains have been submerged by a

* *Macarion nêses*.—Vide PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xviii.

† *Odyssey*, book xix.

‡ From the meridian of *Greenwich*.

sudden irruption of the waters of the BLACK SEA. The effects of this vast submerſion are diſcoverable in the form of the maſſes which it has ſuffered to ſubſiſt, and which have all preſerved a direction parallel to the current that has inſulated them, and whoſe impetuofity has been broken againſt the Iſland of CANDIA, on which it has been unable to make any impreſſion. May it not be ſuppoſed that theſe very waters, of a rapidity ſo violent, and a part of which was directed towards the ſouth-eaſt, repelled by the lands of SYRIA, may have exerciſed their action in a direction contrary to their firſt impulſe, and have detached from AFRICA the Iſland of CANDIA, by inundating the low lands by which they were united? And this conjecture of the ancient junction of CANDIA with the coaſt of BARBARY acquires an additional degree of probability, when we pay attention to the ſhallowneſs of the channel which ſeparates them, and whoſe bottom every where affords foundings.

However it may be in regard to theſe hypotheſes, which I offer with diffidence, the Iſland of CANDIA has alſo another affinity to the other iſlands of this ſame part of the MEDITERRANEAN: a chain of mountains traverses it in its length; but its territory is the moſt hilly of all.

In coming from the weſt, the firſt land diſcovered is a point ſtretching very far into the ſea, and which, on that account, is called Cape *SPADA*, anciently the promontory of *PSACUM*. This long point forms, with Cape *MELECCA* or *MELEK*, which our navigators call *MÉLIER*, formerly *CIAMUM*, a large bay, at the head of which lie the harbour and the town of CANEA. It is an opinion, rather generally received, that it is built on the ſite of *CYDONIA* or *CYDON*, a flouriſhing city of ancient CRETE. No veſtige of ancient edifices is there to be perceived; and it is only

from what historians and geographers have transmitted to us on the subject, that we determine this position.

The modern town has nothing remarkable. The form of its buildings is the same as in all the EAST; that is, that in lieu of roofs, inclined and forming a ridge, they have a flat covering, without tiles or flates, and in the form of a terrace. The greater part have only one story: the streets are laid out by the line; some are tolerably wide, and fountains flow with an abundant stream in the public squares. SAVARY, who has frequently endeavoured to embellish things the most remote from beauty, speaks of the balconies that adorn the houses by which the harbour is surrounded, and from which, he says, the prospect is delightful*. The view extends, indeed, to a tolerable distance, but only on the gulf formed by Cape MELECCA and Cape SPADA, and this space of sea is often naked; vessels entering or going out of the harbour not being so frequent as SAVARY seems to intimate. On the other hand, the balcony, whence this traveller discovered a horizon which, in truth, presents nothing charming, because the picture is deficient in points of view and motion, far from adorning the house of the French consul, served rather to disfigure it. It was, in fact, only a wretched circular wooden railing, on which it was hardly safe to stand, and at which ended a flight of steps, or rather a wooden ladder, placed on the outside, in order to form a communication with the upper story, which was the consul's lodging.

This rage of lending to objects the most simple a lustre of which they are frequently not susceptible, is perceivable in the letters which SAVARY

* *Lettres sur la Grèce.* See the end of the twenty-ninth Letter.

has written on GREECE, with still more affectation than in his work respecting EGYPT. The reader of them might imagine that he was perusing Oriental tales. Whether the imagination of the author have acquired more ascendancy, through the habit of not being checked; whether, yielding to his passion of painting subjects which it was necessary only to sketch with exactness, it may have become a matter of necessity to him to make them shine with a lustre in which they were deficient; his pencil has too frequently deviated from the original, and his colouring has more than once disguised austere truth. His pictures, besides, however glowing they may be, are often placed unseasonably and in a wrong way. We read, for example, with extreme pleasure, the portrait which, with a light and skilful hand, he draws of two nuns belonging to a convent of Greek women of the environs of CANEA; it is not possible to present, with more art and agreeableness, the contrast of two figures, one of whom united all the charms of youth and beauty, while the other exhibited the deep impression of old age and decrepitude. But was it worth while to travel into GREECE to compose these portraits, which might, perhaps, pass for portraits of fancy? And in what monastery of our countries have we not seen both old and young nuns exhibiting the same features of disparity and contrast?

But if, as a traveller, SAVARY strays beyond the limits which accuracy has prescribed, he captivates his readers when we consider him as a writer. He possesses, in the highest degree, the talent of feeling, and of making others feel deeply: his descriptions are replete with warmth and life; his style is brilliant, like his imagination; and the exuberance of his fancy is, as it were, only a mistake of his ardent mind, which (endeavoured) to animate every thing around it, and to diffuse the delightful tints of the feeling by which it was fired.

To these rare and amiable qualities of mind, SAVARY joined a plain and simple exterior; he was endowed with natural beneficence, which made him beloved, as the integrity of his character gained him esteem. His conversation, like all his habits, had nothing studied: he seemed to have reserved the fire of his genius for his writings; and, when one heard him speak, one did not expect to enjoy so much pleasure in reading him. I had seen him in EGYPT: I met with him again, in 1780, at CANEA. He had followed the fortunes of his worthy and respectable friend, M. DE KERCY, whom, against every appearance of success, M. DE TOTT, appointed by the court inspector-general of the sea-port towns of the LEVANT, had sent to DAMIETTA, in order to exercise there the functions of vice-consul. M. DE KERCY was soon forced to quit so dangerous a post: he came to fill the place of consul at CANEA, where I had great reason to be well satisfied with the polite attentions of two friends, equally commendable from their virtues and their merit; and the lines which I have just consecrated to the memory of one of them, towards whom, whether he may have been praised or blamed, the world have almost always been unjust, are the expression of truth, and of the sentiments with which they have inspired me.

The French consul who resided at CANEA, before M. DE KERCY, was married to a young woman, born in the same place, and in the same district as myself: our families had been for a long time united; and the renewal of our acquaintance, which did not take place till after the expiration of a few days, had something theatrical, but at the same time very agreeable. A man must have passed several years out of his own country, have travelled over very distant and dangerous regions, to experience the gratification arising from the meeting with one of his relations, or persons who remind him of those he loves, as well as of the pleasing habits of the early part of life. I know not whether my young

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country-

countrywoman found herself happy from a union which Hymen had formed, without having lighted it with his torch, since there existed too great a disparity of age and person, even without having added to it the charms or consolations of fecundity. But some apertures, almost imperceptible, with which the floors, the doors, and the partitions of the apartments, were, if I may so say, pierced like a sieve, led me to think that the eye of jealousy was there on the watch, and that the flag which waved over the consul's house, was not a talisman sufficiently powerful for introducing French confidence, nor for averting the absurd and stern incredulity of the Mussulmans, on the subject of the most interesting attribute of beauty, the fidelity of women.

Several houses of MARSEILLES also maintained factors at CANEA; their principal commerce consisted of a quantity of olive-oil, which the Island of CANDIA furnishes, and which served to supply our soap-manufactories. Every year there was made of this article as much as loaded twenty vessels, which were dispatched to FRANCE; and these same vessels brought back to the Turks manufactured soap: but this branch of national industry had lost much of its importance, through the imprudent combinations of some Frenchmen, who had instructed the Turks of CANEA to make soap, and had directed this manufacture.

Besides the consul and the merchants, there was also at CANEA a French Capuchin, who officiated as their chaplain. The house which he occupied in the interior of the town was open to strangers, who there found lodging and board at a very moderate price, and which the obliging friar always left at the disposal of his boarders. I lodged there on my second voyage, and I had every reason to be satisfied with the attentions and the good company of my landlord. He had to serve him, both at table and at the altar, a little Greek belonging to the Isle of

CERIGO,

CERIGO, who spoke French tolerably well; he had the complaisance to allow this youth to attend me, on my departure from CANEA, that he might serve as my interpreter during the remainder of my travels.

In order to answer the same object, in the various excursions which I made in CANDIA, I took with me a Provençal renegado, a most wretched sailor, who, to escape a just punishment, had pretended to embrace the religion of MAHOMET. He was a gunner at the fort of SUDA, though he had never been employed in the service of the artillery; and, in this new station, he passed for a very skilful person in the eyes of his companions, whose ignorance in gunnery was still much greater. Notwithstanding his pretended abilities, this man lived in a low and even abject state: he was perfectly acquainted with the bulk of the people, in the midst of whom he dragged on his debased existence, and whose confidence he had not found means to gain by adopting their religious principles and habits; he likewise did justice to himself, and truth sometimes escaped him on this subject in a very ingenuous manner. It occurred to him, when we were travelling, to recommend to me to keep my property always at my elbow—"Because," said he, "*in this country you ought to mistrust every one, and me in particular.*" A confession of such a nature gave me the measure of the confidence which I might have in this wretch: I must, however, acknowledge, that he never robbed nor cheated me, although I did not always take such precautions as the little faith he himself had in his own honesty prompted him to point out to me.

To protect me from all insult, there had been appointed to attend me, when I went out of the town, a janizary, who was, perhaps, the handsomest, the most robust, and the most muscular man that I ever beheld in my life. He might also be reckoned one of the most mischievous. He

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was the terror of the country-places. Constantly armed from top to toe, on every occasion he made use of his weapons; threats were incessantly in his mouth; and his stern countenance, his large sparkling eyes, his bursts of passion, his stature, and his strength, caused their effects to be dreaded. He treated the Greeks as a servile herd; blows with his stick, or his sabre, were dealt out to them, and even pistols discharged at them, on the smallest resistance. This Turk, who belonged to CANDIA, had been presented to me as a bold and enterprising man, and those who gave him that character were not mistaken: they would have been equally justified in describing him as a dangerous and ungovernable robber. But this fellow, furious towards others, was always very mild with me: he was capable of feeling, that, being in my pay, he was bound to obey me; and never did he fail to do so, at least in every thing in which I was personally concerned. However, this sort of command which I had over him, did not extend so far as to prevent him from using ill the Greeks who happened to be too slow in executing his orders, in the villages where we stopped, nor from making me alight at all the convents which lay near our route, however close they were to each other. He there ordered a collation; caused himself to be served with the best wines, with which he got drunk in spite of MAHOMET; spread confusion and terror through the whole monastery; and did not quit it till after he had gorged himself with meat and drink, in the hope of soon meeting with another halting-place, in order that he might there renew the same orgies and the same uproar. I carefully concealed myself from him, when I offered to the monks a just indemnification: they did not accept it themselves but with trembling; and they would have been undone, had it been perceived by my impetuous companion. These poor friars pitied me very sincerely for being, as it were, in his hands; and they were at a loss to conceive how I did not also become the victim of his passionate and violent disposition.

If the soul of these monks had not been debased by slavery, with what torments would it not have rent, on recollecting that their nation was formerly celebrated for its power and greatness; on reflecting that, descendants of the valorous Cretans, they had terminated a long career of glory, to become the slaves of a barbarian, and the sport of his brutality! But the habit of misfortune, the grossest ignorance, and the exercise of superstition, have degraded them to such a degree, that we are tempted to cease to pity them, as soon as we are acquainted with their disposition.

CHAPTER XVII.

Excursion to Cape Melecca.—Convent of the Trinity.—Inscription.—Monks of the Trinity.—Their way of life, their table, their habitation, their situation in regard to the Turks.—Comparison between this monastery and those of the Desert of Nitria, in Egypt.—Fowling.—Birds.—Agriculture.—Wheat.—Barley.—Lupins.—Rainy season.

THE wide promontory, known by the name of Cape MELECCA, presenting several objects of curiosity, I failed not to go thither. I made this little excursion on horse-back; the French vice-consul, and three captains of merchant-vessels, at anchor in the harbour of CANEA, wished to be of the party. It was in the month of November. We saw on our route a great many gray wagtails, and a much greater number of thrushes.

At half a day's journey from the town of CANEA stands the convent of the TRINITY, built against a high mountain of arid and accumulated rocks. This ground, gloomy and wild, throws out the luminous parts of the picture, and forms an agreeable contrast with the fields which lie in front. It is a large, cultivated plain, intersected by patches of vines, and half shaded by a quantity of olive-trees, planted at some distance from each other. In the middle of this plain, embellished by the richness of its productions, an avenue of cypress-trees leads to the grand stair-case of the monastery. Other cypress and orange trees surround it, and form a charming prospect.

The convent is the work of the Venetians; it has the form of a parallelogram, and is extremely well built. The church is in a very good taste, and we see with regret that it has not been finished. Its inside is agreeably decorated. On the portal are two inscriptions, the one in Greek, the other in Latin, almost unintelligible. The following is the Latin inscription, which I have faithfully copied, and which conveys no high idea of the erudition of its author:

PRECLARO ASINVZAN CAROLE, PROSAPIE, HIEREMIAS SAPIENTISSIMUS ET LAURENTIUS SOLERTISSIMOUS GERMANI AMBO SACRIFICI ET INIVGES, MAGNA CUM IMPENSA ET ACRIMONIA TALIA GESSERUNT ILLE ENIM SUFFICIENTER INCEPTI LABOREM IMPENDIT QUE CONFECIT HONESTE HEVERO PROPAGATOR ILLIUS VOTI SUPPLEVIT RELIQUUM ET HOC PERPULCHRUM FUNDITUS TEMPLUM INSTAURAVIT.

The names of the two founders of the convent are mentioned in this inscription, of very whimsical Latin; but, at the same time, the essential point is omitted, that is, the date.

All the cells of the convent are far from being occupied. A hundred friars dwelt here formerly; when *TOURNEFORT* arrived, the community was composed of fifty only, and I found here no more than twelve. So rapid a diminution in this tribe of cenobites arises not, as might be imagined, from an indifference towards the monastic state; it is owing to the general depopulation, the usual symptoms of the Turkish government, and which has been felt in the Island of *CANDIA* more forcibly than elsewhere.

This small number of friars is still exposed to the violences of these same Turks, inhabitants of the towns of *CANDIA*, and who have a great roughness in their character. Any degree of affluence, acquired by agriculture, dares not shew itself at the convent of the *TRINITY*. That asylum of men,
given

given up to noble and useful labours, which spread over the earth the treasures and the dress of fecundity, would neither be respected nor spared, did barbarians suspect riches there, or only abundance and a choice of food. Accordingly these monks affect to lead a poor life, and they strictly confine themselves to bare necessities. The display of wretchedness does not always protect them from the visits and ill usage of their brutal rulers. Passionate and mischievous men come sometimes, and spread terror within the walls of a building which commands respect; and, taking an ungenerous advantage of the sort of infamy that they have attached to the name of Christian, and of the oppressive and shameful slavery to which they have reduced the people whom they have subjugated, and in whom the shadow of resistance would be a capital crime, they exact, with sabres and pistols in their hands, refreshments which it is frequently dangerous to refuse them. A few days prior to my excursion to the TRINITY, two Greek monks belonging to another convent, on the road of RETIMO, were massacred by some Turks, who introduced themselves into the house, during the night, in order to be revenged for a refusal which had been made to them, the day before, of a few cups of coffee.

In these sudden irruptions of robbery, the situation of the superior of the monastery becomes very delicate; but the habit of seeing himself exposed to it, renders it, as it were, familiar. He is seen braving, with coolness, the threats of fiery passion; sometimes employing the language of firmness; sometimes endeavouring to appease by the cringing tone of servility, and almost always succeeding in getting rid of his dangerous guests, by exerting himself to prove to them, that it is impossible that the house, too poor, should possess the means of gratifying their wishes. This singular part, a mixture of dignity and debasement, which frequently

lasts

lasts several hours, must be very painful; indeed, a man must be a monk and a Greek, to sustain it for so long a period.

Secret recesses, almost impossible to be discovered, conceal from the researches of petulant avidity the choice provisions, which are thence brought forth only on certain occasions, such as the arrival of some strangers. Visitors of this description are well received; but this good reception is no more than the shadow of decent hospitality; it is interest alone that suggests it to the monks, and they never fail to give notice that nothing under their roof is gratuitous: they do not even wait for the effects of generosity, nor for those of a just return of civil behaviour; and, in lieu of relying on the delicacy of their guests, they extort money from them in the most vile and gross manner; so that the duplicity and meanness of their character soon dispels the good opinion which may have been conceived of men estimable under the consideration of industry and labour.

We found in their house a table served with simplicity and neatness; the dishes were abundant, but without seasoning; it was the luxury of frugality. No other viands are here served up than those brought by visitors; and we had provided ourselves with some poultry of the most beautiful species; the hens of CANDIA being, in general, very large, and having on their head a broad tuft of long feathers. But the most delicious fruits were here found in profusion; fresh olives, apples, oranges, whose peel is finer and pulp sweeter than those of MALTA: sweet and perfumed figs here formed a rich and brilliant variety, at the same time that they flattered the smell. Cakes of balmy honey, pure and white as crystal, and the most beautiful in the world, rose in the form of a pyramid in the middle of this elegant course. The best cheeses, made with the milk of ewes, were at the two ends of the table; and the heady and sweet wine,
which

which was unadulterated, gave birth to gaiety among the guests, and even unknit the gloomy brow of the monks, who, utterly indifferent as to the pleasure of offering us this charming collation, experienced no satisfaction but in thinking of the recompense which they promised themselves for it.

This convent of the TRINITY offers nothing remarkable but its delightful situation. The friars take care to make strangers go down to a little cellar, by no means curious, where they bury their dead. The heads of the two founders, whose names are to be read in the inscription which I have transcribed, are preserved in glazed closets, and the monks shew them with veneration, the consequence of habit rather than of gratitude.

The tyranny of the Turks hangs heavy over this convent in more than one particular; as well as over all the others in the same country. The friars who inhabit them are not allowed to add to the buildings which are constructed there, nor to repair those which are falling into ruins. They have never been able to succeed in obtaining leave to finish their church; and, when they wish to make any repairs or embellishments, they wait till a pacha, less stern or more tractable than they commonly are, comes to command at CANEA; then they esteem themselves happy to purchase from him, at any price, permission to call in workmen. Thus it was that, a little time before my arrival, they had paid dearly for the right of gilding the sculpture of the farther end of their church. But these labours, although authorized by the governor, must be prosecuted with caution. Carried too far, they awaken the cupidity of the Turks, who, conceiving too high an idea of the riches of the friars, would not fail to make them a pretext for fresh extortions. What a monstrous administration is that which punishes, as a crime, the care of adorning and repairing

repairing our dwelling, and in which whatever deserves the greatest encouragement is but a source of calamity and oppression!

We spent two days in this agreeable retreat. Our time glided away in visiting the beautiful plain, at the extremity of which it is situated, in taking the diversion of shooting, and strolling over the hills by which it is bordered: in the evening we reassembled; the collation was prepared, and the wholesome and delicious dishes of which it was composed, could not, by a painful digestion, disturb the repose to which gentle exercise had inclined us.

When I compared this happy situation to that in which I had found myself, some time before, in the hideous Coptic monasteries of the desert of St. MACARIUS, or of NITRIA, in EGYPT, how charming it appeared to me! There, a fiery climate, moving and hot sands, uncooled by any rain, unfought by any living being, a scarce, harsh, and unattractive vegetation, bespeak the languor of Nature. An enclosure of high walls, burning as the soil on which they stand, saddens the mind and terrifies the sight; and when the traveller penetrates into that horrible prison, he there finds only the same nakedness which reigns without; dens, rather than cells, detestable water, lentil bread, and all the marks of the most frightful wretchedness. Here, on the contrary, the temperature is mild; the fertile earth is decked with the richest productions; the prospects are cheerful; here, every thing charms the senses, every thing is good and agreeable, with the exception of the government, which we love to forget when we are visiting this delightful district.

Our fowling, or, to speak more correctly, our walks, for they were not fatiguing, produced us several species of birds. We procured some red partridges; two woodcocks, extremely lean, and the only
ones

ones that we met with; and some turtles, thrushes, and blackbirds, which are in considerable numbers on the olive-trees, whose fruit they eat. We likewise saw a great many larks, collected in numerous flocks in the fields; and, on the olive-trees, chaffinches, titmice, gold-finches, bull-finches, &c. I remarked, that these last-mentioned birds did not assemble several together, like the others; they are seen only in pairs: the male and female follow and keep near to each other; they frequently call each other back, the male by a cry consisting of a sharp sound, followed by two grave sounds, somewhat similar to that given by two little stones struck the one against the other. It is by these last two tones only that the female answers. The bull-finches whistle like the blackbird: means are even found to make them articulate words, after the string of their tongue has been cut.

The natives were beginning to till and sow the lands. A single ploughing preceded the sowing of wheat; and, for barley, they contented themselves with scattering it on the stubble, and then going over it with the plough, as I have seen practised in my own country, even for wheat, by negligent and dilatory cultivators. Here, the furrows were not cut deeply; the farmers did no more than turn up the surface of the ground; and this slight culture, which is followed by plentiful harvests, is a certain indication of the fertility of the soil. On examination, it proves, in fact, to be of the best quality, reddish, and of a good consistence, without being too compact.

This light, but substantial land, is also extremely well adapted to the culture of lupins; whole fields are sown with them. This legume is a very common food with the people of CANDIA. In order to deprive it of the intolerable tartness and bitterness, which prevent its being made use

of without dressing, it is put to soak for five or six days in sea-water; it is then boiled and eaten, after being stripped of its shell or husk.

Seed-time does not take place in CANDIA till after the early rains, which there commonly begin in October. They happened later in 1778, and none were seen to fall, for the first time of that season, till the 11th of November; and, indeed, the plains were parched up, and the plants died from drought. The early rains are accompanied by storms, boisterous winds, and claps of thunder.

Winter, in the Island of CANDIA, is, properly speaking, no more than a rainy season, during which the sky is more charged with clouds, and the heat less powerful, but never so much as to make it necessary to have recourse to artificial warmth: it is a period more temperate, more wet, but which is by no means rough or unpleasant.

However, the high mountains are covered with snow in this season. On the 18th of November, 1778, the summit of the lofty mountains, which form an amphitheatre behind CANEA, was seen, for the first time, crowned with snow; it remains there till the month of June. It has been observed, that when winter has whitened the ridge of these hills, the north wind, which frequently blows with dangerous impetuosity in the Gulf of CANEA, is no longer felt there with so much violence, because it is stopped, or at least greatly moderated, by a light land-breeze, which is termed a *snow-wind*.

A long series of observations has furnished navigators who frequent the harbour of CANDIA with a certain mean of ascertaining the state of the atmosphere in the open sea, from the sole inspection of the same chain

of chain of mountains which encircles the town to the south. When he clouds collect in heaps above the most prominent of these hills, which bears the name of *CALEPO*, the weather is bad in the offing, and the wind almost always to the northward: navigators then take good care not to quit the harbour. If, on the contrary, the ridge of the mountain is clear and free from vapours, they are certain of finding, without, the wind moderate, and favourable for sailing out of the gulf, and getting clear of the coast.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Caloyers.—Papàs.—Their divine service.—Nomination of the chiefs of the Greek church.—Ancient formula of the letters patent for the nomination of the Greek bishops.—Accident.—Convent of St. John.—Another deserted convent of the same name.—Mountains of Cape Melecca.—Catholicos.—Grotto.—Stalactites.—Solitude.—Partridges.—Wild goats.—Grotto of the Bear.—Return to Canea.—A Turk, friend to the French.

CONVENTS are very numerous in GREECE; they are sanctuaries consecrated to ignorance, superstition, and most frequently to sloth. To the monks is given the name of *caloyers*; from *kalos*, good, and from *gèros*, old man, good old man. We are very far, however, from seeing among them none but old men, or even men of a certain age. It is not uncommon to meet with young boys, of from ten to twelve years old, clothed in the habit, which consists of a plain, long, black gown, confined by a girdle. The variety of the regulations, the medley of the dresses, which strike the traveller, in the different classes of friars spread over the surface of the countries submitted to the Latin church, are not to be remarked among the Greeks; there exists but one order, that of ST. BASIL; and the monks, subjected to the same rule, also wear the same dresses.

These friars are very dirty, and, we may add, very ugly, from the habit which they contract of neglecting their exterior, and of neither taking care of their beard nor their hair. Nor are they more to be admired as to interior qualities. Hypocrisy, haughty and gross ignorance, mean-
ness,

ness, and treachery, form their character; uninformed as they are, they wish to be reckoned, in the eyes of the people, to possess great knowledge, and to enjoy a reputation for sanctity, which may procure them respect and attention.

Their vows are obedience, chastity, and abstinence. The first and the last of these vows are observed with sufficient exactness: men, born in slavery, are well calculated to stoop under any yoke whatever; and habituated, from infancy, to a hard and miserable life, the greater part of these caloyers being taken only from the lowest class, they easily support both the simplicity of a coarse diet, and the privations imposed on them by the frequent fasts to which they are restricted; although several, it is said, make no scruple to indemnify themselves in private. But it is affirmed, that the second of these vows is not so strictly complied with; and, were they not accused of a degree of brutality, in the infringement of laws which Nature, more powerful than all the institutions of convents, disavows, we should overlook their yielding to an irresistible impulse, an enchanting and inevitable delirium, which occupies and inflames all the senses, and before which human compacts sink and vanish.

The discipline^d of the Greek church contradicts not, at least by imprudent obligations, these commands of Nature, in regard to her secular clergy, whose members may marry. Every *papas*, that is the name borne by a secular priest, may have a wife, whom he espouses before he receives the priesthood, and whom, in case of death, it is forbidden him to replace by another. The wife of a *papas* is called *papadia*, and she participates in the consideration enjoyed by her husband. The Greek girls are ambitious of the honour of being united to ministers of the Divinity; and it is, in general, the youngest and handsomest, who become the wives
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of men, for the most part, advanced in years, and as dirty and disgusting as the caloyers.

I shall dispense with speaking of the customs and ceremonies of the Greek ritual; these are things too well known, for it to be necessary for me to dwell on them. We should, however, conceive an erroneous idea of the decency of their manner of performing divine service, were we to judge of it from the dignity and majestic gravity of the ceremonies of the Latin church in Europe. Every thing in it is little and paltry; every thing in it partakes of the poverty and narrowness of mind of those who officiate; every thing is done with precipitation and irreverence; nothing speaks to the soul and imposes on the senses; nothing in it recalls to mind, that the Creator and the Master of the world is the object of their worship. They stir about a great deal, they chat, they laugh, they are incessantly making inclinations of the body, signs of the cross, which seem to trace a scarf on the breast, because the right hand, carried only to the forehead, to the right shoulder, and then to the left shoulder, falls again transversally and with quickness. In their singing is not to be found the melody and gravity of the Gregorian chant; it is monotonous, rapid, graceless, and unimpressive, and it is pronounced in a snuffing and very disagreeable manner.

It is well known, that the Turks have an insurmountable aversion to bells, a consequence of the hatred which they bear to Christians. No Greek church has any, throughout the extent of their domination, and the caloyers make use of semi-circular suspended iron hoops, on which they strike, for the purpose of summoning their congregation to prayers.

The Greek church, which formerly reckoned among its members some men of great talents, and whose voluminous works contain numerous traits

traits of beautiful eloquence, is fallen into the greatest debasement. The place of patriarch, who is her head, is abandoned to intrigue, and put up to auction. Nominated by the court of CONSTANTINOPLE, he is one of its most supple and most cringing courtiers. After having purchased his dignity, he purchases his tranquillity and his influence; to support himself, he frequently stands in need of squeezing, in his turn, the prelates of his church; and, in order to obtain from them the sums which he requires, he makes use of the arm and the violence of the Turks, who, to the exactions which they take on themselves to levy, add others for their own private emolument. It is not astonishing, that the Turks should have conceived a sovereign contempt for people, who make of their religion an object of speculation, and degrade their character by the most rapacious cupidity. To the sentiment of contempt, so justly merited, is added, among the Mussulmans, inextinguishable hatred against Christians; and this censure is manifested, even in the letters patent, necessary for the investiture of the patriarchate or of a bishopric. Ingenious turns of expression are not spared in it; but long habit, and, perhaps, some shade, less coarse, of barbarism, have blunted the traits of this sort of rage; and the provisions of the Greek church, no longer contain, in our days, the outrageous qualifications with which they were formerly filled.

There was communicated to me, as authentic, the Latin translation of an ancient firman of the PORTE, for the nomination of a Greek bishop. It is a sort of bull, extremely whimsical; it was put into my hands at CAIRO, by VENTURE and his father-in-law DIGEON, both French interpreters, or droguemans, who assured me of the truth of it; but, supposing that some exaggerations have been blended with it, this document gives not the less, on that account, an idea of the debasement of the Greeks, and shews how odious they are to their tyrants; and though these fir-

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mans are, at present, less indecorous, we may, from the injurious terms which are there inserted, judge of what they must have been, in fact, at a time when the fanaticism and ferociousness of the Turks were in greater vigour.

The following, I have been told, is the ancient and truly singular protocol, which served for the letters patent of the bishops of the East :

Cum infidelium ——— episcopus quidam, nomine ——— fide reprobatus, et moribus dissolutissimis à templo mundi, ad terram immundam transivisset, et nonnullis abhinc annis ipsius anima impura ab infami nido suo ad valles infernales advolasset, negotia vana vaniores episcopatus suspensa remanserunt ; omnes ergo infideles, singuli monachi, cuncti patres impiissimi, universi ethnici congregarunt se ; atque post varias deliberationes diabolicas, in hoc puncto concenerunt, ipsis nempe episcopum esse absolute necessarium, qui ipsemet reprobatus à Deo, et auxilio divino penitus destitutus, auderet tamen illis auxilia divina adpromittere, qui pessimus ipse, illos etiam ad deteriora indueret, qui errans et hæreticus, per errores et hæreses illos conducere posset, qui denique episcopatus vanas functiones administrando, rectius et tutius ad infernum perduceret. Et ad hoc iidem infideles nobis proposuerunt quemdam ——— exemplar malitiæ, prototypum iniquitatis, satanam in carne et cornibus instructum sataneis, hominum emissarium Belzebuth, et fortasse ipsi superiorem, vilem et abjectum, de quo dicetur à turbis hominum in die judicii, quando super caput ejus idus clavarum ferrearum ignearumque sicut grando impluent : Amplius, Domini, amplius.

Cum verò suprà dictus monachus cujus dotes sufficientur depinximus, ad quem ista charta pertinet, cuique hâc solâ vice credatur, omnium sui ordinis monachorum senior, id est, cumulans suos errores pertinaciâ, ignorantiam malitiæ maritans, jejuniis multiplici, vanâ abstinentiâ, sterilibusque mortificationibus

cationibus se diabolorum corda contritulum arbitratus, vel saltem alios ad credendum inducens, neque vota sibi imponendo nihil aliud faciens nisi torquem maledictionis collo suo in æternum ligare, religiosus sine religione, et in viâ perditionis securo gradu procedens, quem Deus adæquet die pœnarum et minarum, febrici sudore, purulentâque vulneris gangrenâ vitali materiâ, lucifero diademate cinctus et piceis ornamentis indutus, omnibus infidelibus præsulatus et inventor novæ hæreseos, episcopus denique nominatus est.

*Datum, &c. &c.**

* TRANSLATION.

As the bishop of the infidels of ———, named ———, of reprobate faith and perverse morals, has passed from the temple of this globe into an unclean land, and, for some years past, his impure soul having quitted its infamous prison, in order to fly into the infernal gulfs, the vain affairs of a more vain bishopric have remained in suspense; all the infidels, all the monks, all the fathers of impiety, all the pagans, have assembled, and, after several diabolical deliberations, they have agreed on this single point, that they were in want of a bishop, who, himself accursed of God, and absolutely deprived of celestial succour, would, nevertheless, venture to promise them divine assistance; who, depraved in himself, would induce them to commit still more evil; who, bewildered in error and heresy, might conduct them into other errors and other heresies; who, in short, fulfilling the vain functions of episcopacy, would drag them more directly and more surely to hell. And, to this effect, the same infidels have proposed to us one ———, an example of wickedness, a model of iniquity, a devil incarnate and bearing the horns of *Satan*, the messenger, and, perhaps, the outdoer of *Belzebub*; vile and abject, of whom the assemblies of men will say, on the day of judgment, when the blows of red-hot iron clubs shall fall like hail on his criminal head: *Still more, Lord, still more.*

This above-mentioned monk, whose qualities have just been sufficiently described, to whom these letters patent belong, and to whom credit is to be given on this occasion only, the most ancient of his order, that is to say, accumulating with obstinacy a crowd of errors; joining ignorance to malice; flattering himself to soften the soul of demons, by numerous fasts and sterile mortifications, or, at least, prevailing on others to believe so; doing nothing else, by imposing on himself obligations by vows, but fixing on himself eternally the yoke of malediction; religious without religion, and walking with a firm step in the path of perdition; whom may heaven, on the day of menace and chastisement, cover with the sweat of fever, and the infectious matter of gangrene, his brow, encircled by the diadem of *Lucifer*, and clothed with ornaments bedaubed with pitch, this monk, in short, designated for presiding over infidels, and for inventing new heresies, has been appointed bishop.

Done, &c. &c.

At the convent of the TRINITY, we were not at the extremity of Cape MELECCA, and we resolved to proceed towards that point, which is entirely formed of masses of rocks, heaped up into lofty mountains, and rent into profound precipices. At the very moment of our departure, I had like to have been left dead on the spot. When I was going to mount my horse, not having taken the precaution to make use, like the Turks, of some elevation to get into the saddle, I set my foot in the stirrup in the European manner; but my horse, being galled under the belly in the place of the girth, experiencing pain from the impression of this girth, which the weight of my body occasioned to move and press against his wound, reared up and fell upon me; my head pitched within less than two inches of the flight of stone-steps, and to this trifling distance was I indebted for not having been killed: but I experienced no injury; I remounted my horse with greater precaution, and this little accident delayed not our departure a single moment.

At a full half league from the convent of the TRINITY, in advancing towards the point of the promontory, across roads, or rather paths made on blocks of stones, stands another convent dedicated to ST. JOHN. It is far less considerable than the former; this is also the work of the Venetians; but it has not been completed, and its construction is less advanced. This house would have been tolerably handsome, had it been finished. We stopped there but a moment, because it is by no means interesting, unless for its situation on the most elevated pitch of the cape, whence the view extends to a great distance towards the sea. But this enlarged horizon has not the agreeableness of the smiling plain, of the charming site of the convent of the TRINITY, and the mind is rather saddened than enlivened by the rocks by which one is surrounded.

Here

Here we left our horses, the paths ceasing to be passable for them, and foot-passengers even having some difficulty in walking over mountains, entirely formed of gray marble, and so covered with it, as to leave but here and there intervals, in which grow a few plants and shrubs. We descended by a very difficult road, having beside us frightful precipices, formed by the fissures of perpendicular mountains.

At the foot of one of these mountains is situated a little monastery, which also bears the name of *St. John*, and the district where it is built is called that of *CATHOLICOS*. The descent to it is by a flight of one hundred and thirty-nine steps cut in the rock. This house has long been deserted, on account of the frequent pillages to which it was exposed on the part of pirates, who landed on the coast for the purpose of laying it under contribution.

On the coast of the chapel of this convent, which is falling into ruins, is the entrance of a grotto*. We each entered with a flambeau in our hand, and conducted by a monk, belonging to the great convent of *St. John*. A guide is necessary to strangers, who wish to penetrate into this excavation formed by Nature, in order that they may not be exposed to falling headlong into some abyss. The grotto is spacious, and a person may easily proceed there nearly a mile, before he arrives at the extremity; it runs horizontally into the bosom of the mountain. An infinite number of pillars of stalactites, which assume all sorts of forms, and some of which are of a prodigious size, seem intended for supporting the roof. In the space which is between these pillars, the work of a slow filtration of the waters, and of the stony substances that they have brought with them, are found other masses, which ages have,

* *Tournefort* makes no mention of this grotto, although he visited the same district.

in like manner, elaborated, some of which hang from the roof of the grotto, and others rise from the ground: they all have different forms. Among these may be discovered porticoes, heads, tubes slender as quills, and other figures, whose great variety and number produce a very agreeable effect. You walk over a large piece of fallen stalactites, the extremity of which is a perfect representation of the head of a hog. In the midst of these sports of chance, the imagination has a vast field for conjectures and fictions.

The colour of the stalactites of the grotto of CATHOLICOS is, in general, yellowish, dull, and opaque, like almost all concretions of this nature; but some are also seen of a dazzling white, whose beauty surpasses alabaster of the finest polish. In a little time, means might be found to detach pieces of it of no inconsiderable size, and fit for forming very beautiful works. Although extremely hard, these stalactites easily break, which renders them very difficult to be worked. On striking them with a hammer, they emit sparks, produced by the vitreous particles which the waters have brought down, and blended with the calcareous substances of which they are composed.

The rains had cooled the atmosphere to such a degree as to cause us to experience a slight sensation of cold. In the grotto, on the contrary, we felt a powerful heat; and we were there soon covered with sweat, though we had left most of our clothes at the entrance. On my first journey to this place, I had experienced quite the reverse; it was very warm without, and the cold was very sharp in the grotto. That was in the month of June, and we were now there in November.

Near the grotto there is, on one side, a well of excellent water; and on the other side, but a little farther on, a recess, where bones are piled up.

up. They are probably those of the monks who inhabited the convent. Opposite, a very handsome bridge, fifty feet in height, of a single arch, and substantially built, joins the two mountains, and crosses the narrow and deep valley by which they are separated. On the declivity of this other mountain are seen some natural excavations, which served as obscure and pious abodes to ancient anchorites.

No solitude can be imagined more perfect, and at the same time more wild, without being hideous, than that in which is situated the little convent of ST. JOHN. Surrounded by perpendicular mountains, bristling with naked rocks, whose melancholy and arid uniformity is interrupted by the foliage of a few shrubs inclined on their surface, the man who inhabits it is concealed from all the world; the enormous curtains which seem to envelop him, leave him only a view of the sky. In safety on the brink of a frightful precipice, the bridge, whose top is flat, and a little platform made before the house, afford him the means of taking a walk, which is sufficient for moderate exercise and meditation: the eye, in following the torrent or the precipice which exists between the two mountains, discovers the sea as through a vista; and this prospect affords a change to reveries and silent occupations. But, it must be confessed, religion or philosophy can alone find charms in a rugged and solitary nook, which insulates man from other men, and leaves him no intercourse but with the Divinity and himself.

Covies of red partridges delight in these inaccessible mountains, and there they live in safety. There, also, are to be seen wild goats, which leap from rock to rock with admirable address and agility. These wild goats, which are to be met with in the Isle of CANDIA, and several other islands of the same sea, are of the bouquetin*, or mountain goat

* *Bouquetin*, BUFFON, Hist. Nat. des Quadrupèdes, édition de SONNINI, tome xxx.—*Capra ibex*. LINN.

species. The modern Greeks, as has been done by their ancestors, confound the *bouquetin* and the *chamois* under the same denomination of *wild goat*. The French, habituated to the LEVANT, also knew them by no other denomination than that of *chèvre sauvage*. It is to be presumed, in fact, that BUFFON himself imagined that these two animals are not of a species different from that of the domestic goat.

I quitted with regret the solitude of CATHOLICOS. The silence of nature, the sort of terror inspired by the gloomy scenery of the situation, the vicinity of dark caverns, whence gulfs, in which no man ever penetrated, extend into the bosom of the earth, together with the remains, half-decomposed, of the ancient inhabitants of this desert, had involved me in a religious reverie, and plunged me into a profound melancholy. Absorbed in my thoughts, I was not aware of the fatigue that is experienced in ascending the flight of steps by which we had arrived; and I was not roused from my distraction till the moment when my companions gave me notice to quit the path, in order to visit a small house inhabited by a single caloyer.

On one side is a grotto or cavern, the arched roof of which is very lofty, but which is no great depth. Just on entering, one is struck by the resemblance of a bear, formed by a very large block of stalactites. POCOCK, who visited this cavern, says that there are also to be seen here several hunters, in like manner formed of stalactites, who seem to attack the bear*; but these figures of hunters have probably been destroyed, for there are now no vestiges of them.

After having remounted our horses at the great convent of ST. JOHN, we went to sleep at that of the TRINITY; and the next day we pursued

~~Travels~~

* Travels in the EAST, &c. book ii. chap. xvii.

our route to CANEA. We passed near *ACROTIRI*, a convent of nuns: farther on, we stopped a few moments at the country-house of a Turk, a friend to the French; we were there extremely well received. Coffee, pipes, sherbet, were presented to us with cordiality; and we took leave of this honest Muffulman, who had been a great traveller, at the same time expressing our wishes that his countrymen might partake of his humanity and civilization.

CHAPTER XIX.

Harbour of Canea.—Danger incurred by the Author in giving assistance to a Barbary corsair.—Situation of this corsair.—Sant Odero.—Harbour of Suda.—Game.—Shell-fish.—Sea-urchins.—Sardines, or sprats.—Road from Suda to Canea.—Lepers.—Romeca, a dance of the Greeks.—Apothecary of Canea.—Signs of liberty.

WHEN we are to speak of the harbours which are in the hands of the Turks, we are forced to repeat incessantly, and to describe, for each of them, the same negligence, the same barbarous apathy, which coolly suffer to fall into decay those great basins which nature and art had formed, in order to promote commerce and public prosperity. At CANEA are again found the vices of administration, and the indifference, which are to be remarked, wherever we land, on the immense extent of coast, become, for the misfortune of the people who inhabit it, the property of the Mussulmans. No precaution, no police, no mean of repair and preservation is there employed; the process of cleansing a port, by means of lighters, is unknown; ships throw overboard, with impunity, every thing that embarrasses them, and not unfrequently a part of their ballast. The bottom rises, and is covered by foreign bodies, dangerous for the cables; the basin is choked up; it can scarcely admit vessels of two hundred tons burden; the arsenal, and the fine docks for ship-building, which the Venetians had constructed there, are falling into ruins, and are no longer in a condition to be made use of; and the Turkish government beholds, with a stupid eye, the powerful promoters of its strength and wealth thus decaying.

Exposed

Exposed to the north winds, the entrance of the harbour is difficult when they blow with violence; then vessels do not enter the gulf, at the head of which this entrance is situated; but, if once they have run into it during these northerly gales, it is no longer possible for them to get out of it, and they are obliged to steer for the very narrow mouth of the harbour, where the waves collect in heaps, and frequently rise high enough to clear the mole, and to spread and break in the basin.

I do not recollect, without terror, the dangers which several French seamen and myself incurred, in giving assistance to a vessel which had imprudently got into the Gulf of CANEA, during the night, and in a very strong gale of wind from the northward. It was nine o'clock in the evening, the night was extremely dark, the wind furious, and the sea roared against the mole in a terrible manner. I was on board a French merchant-vessel, at anchor in the harbour: the three captains with whom I had made the excursion to Cape MELECCA had assembled on board this ship, in order to give me a supper. Reports of cannon, repeated at certain intervals, were heard in the offing; their hollow and deep sound added to the gloomy horror inspired by the noise of the raging winds and waves. Fires kindled at the top of the light-house, which stands at the entrance of the harbour, spread their agitated light over this scene of confusion and fury in the contending elements. Such was the only assistance that could be procured in a place where there neither are pilots, nor persons appointed to superintend the harbours. Reports of guns, the signal of danger and distress, succeeded each other with rapidity. French merchant-ships being at that time very numerous in the seas of the LEVANT, there was every reason to believe that the vessel, whose repeated calls for assistance we heard, was of that description. The determination of exposing themselves in order to save their fellow-citizens,

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companions,

companions, or friends, was instantly taken by the captains with whom I was supping. They manned the largest long-boat belonging to the three vessels, and the stoutest of their sailors were ordered to be selected for this expedition. I chose to accompany my entertainers, and we pulled out of the harbour, having to struggle against the wind and waves, which came with violence directly against us, and opposed our progress. We were more than once on the point of being swamped. At length, after considerable difficulty and danger, we arrived near a vessel which was lying to, and suffering herself to be drifted towards the mole. A tier of guns run out soon made us perceive that we were not approaching a merchant-ship; and when we got on board, we found that we were on the deck of a BARBARY corsair belonging to TRIPOLI.

Although the commander of this vessel was a tolerably good seaman, he had not been able to persuade his crew to manœuvre so as to enter the harbour of CANEA. A few men only had consented to remain on deck, and the rest kept quietly in the waist, smoking their pipe, as if they had been in the situation the least exposed. Our arrival gave fresh energy to the commander of the corsair, a rough and ferocious pirate. In any other circumstances, he would not have spoken to us but with brutality. Danger had rendered him mild and obsequious: he called us his friends and brothers; he conjured us to share among ourselves the command of his ship, and save her from destruction; he reserved for his people all the violence of his character, and, with a stick in his hand, forced them to come on deck. At last the fore-sail alone was set; and we contrived, without any accident, to cast anchor in the harbour. The BARBARY free-booter, who had manifested so much joy at receiving assistance when he was in danger, expressed no farther acknowledgment when he had escaped from it; and, by his gross ingratitude, very worthy
of

of a barbarous pirate, he induced brave seamen, who had exposed themselves to great perils, in order to preserve him from them, to repent of their generous action.

In the gulf, and to the west of the harbour, a small island, named *SANT ODERO*, or *ST. THEODORE*, on which the Venetians had built a castle, now entirely demolished, affords a tolerably good anchorage for large ships: however, they avail themselves of it but very seldom, and prefer entering the harbour of *SUDA*, where they are in much greater safety. Cape *MELECCA* forms the west part, and Cape *TRAPANI*, formerly *DREPANUM*, the east side of this narrow gulf, which penetrates nearly two leagues inland: it was probably the *AMPHIMALE* of the ancients. Historians are not agreed on this point. Others place the harbour of *AMPHIMALE* between *SUDA* and *RETIMO*, where there is, however, only a very bad haven; and the latter make of Cape *MELECCA*, the Cape *DREPANUM* of the ancients. It seems to me, that the opinion which I adopt is the most rational, and the most conformable to the state of the places.

At the entrance of the great Bay of *SUDA*, and sheltered by Cape *MELECCA*, is an islet a quarter of a league in circuit. A fortress, which remained for a long time in the hands of the Venetians, even after they had lost the Island of *CANDIA*, defends this important harbour, which Nature has formed, and which is one of the finest and most spacious in the *MEDITERRANEAN*: the most numerous fleet may there be assembled. Ships may cast anchor under the fortress, but they are not in safety; whereas, by running up as far as the coast which terminates the bay, and which is called *LA CULATE*, they are perfectly sheltered. This harbour has, nevertheless, the inconvenience of affording no anchorage

but at LA CULATE itself: there are no soundings throughout the remainder of its length, so that frequently ships are detained there for a considerable time, in expectation of a favourable wind for leaving it.

There are no habitations on the coast which forms this bight; the place is solitary, and no other amusement is to be enjoyed there but that of shooting. The uncultivated and rocky hills, with which the bay is surrounded, abound with game; partridges, quails, and hares, are there common; and a morass, which is at the extremity, is generally full of snipes and water-hens. The sea there also abounds with fish; in particular, sardines, or sprats, are there taken in great quantities. The stones washed by the sea contain numbers of dactyls; other shell-fish are also to be seen; and sea-urchins, which, on the coast of this part of the Island of CANDIA, are more delicate than elsewhere, have multiplied to such a degree, that whole boat-loads of them are brought to CANEA.

From LA CULATE to CANEA the distance is reckoned a league: the plain which leads thither is fertile and agreeable, and the traveller feels a pleasure in crossing fields adorned with the riches of culture, or enamelled with flowers which grow there spontaneously. But, on approaching the town, a disgusting spectacle suddenly changes the pleasurable sensations which had been produced by these smiling pictures. The soul is harrowed up, the senses are painfully affected, at the sight of the huts which line the road. These are the asylums of persons of both sexes, eaten up by that horrible and contagious disease of the skin which still exercises its ravages in some parts of the EAST, and which the crusades had introduced into EUROPE, where we have succeeded in getting rid of it.

The leprosy still infects one of the finest countries of the EAST. This disorder was anciently known to the Greeks, who called it *lepra*, and the Jews were very subject to its ravages. It still acts with some degree of virulence on the inhabitants of the Island of CANDIA: the Turks and Greeks are alike afflicted by it, and it attacks the rich as well as the poor. I make this remark, because SAVARY has affirmed that persons in affluence were not subject to the leprosy*. He, doubtless, did not recollect that, when we were together at CANEA, the son of an opulent aga, still young, and a very handsome man, was a victim to this loathsome disorder.

Lepers are obliged to quit the town, and dwell in a hut, where they are prohibited from all communication with healthful persons. They there live on the produce of a small garden adjoining to their cottage, on poultry which they rear, and on the alms of passengers. No sooner do they perceive any one, than they advance in order to implore pity; and their approach causes the most violent disgust. Their face, as well as their body, is swelled by reddish and scaly blotches, and eroded by pustules; their aspect is hideous, and one hastens to throw them some money, in order to get away from them. Hatred to Europeans has taken such deep root in the heart of Mussulmans, that unfortunate Turks, confined in the enclosure intended for lepers, insulted us all, at the same time asking charity of us. How frequently have I not heard myself thus addressed: “*Pray, infidel, dog, give me a parat!*”

Who would imagine that Love should also establish his throne in the midst of so horrible and disgusting an association? Intimate connexions

* *Lettres sur la Grèce. Lettre xxxiii.*

are contracted between the wretches of which it is composed; the sharpness of their humours provokes their passion, or, to speak more correctly, their brutality; its effects are excessive; they are under no restraint: separated from the rest of mankind, they disdain every sort of reserve. In the open day, they are seen indulging in their voluptuous transports; and they cease not to lavish on each other these horrible caresses, till the moment when, sinking under the disorder which overwhelms them, they drop to pieces, decomposed by long and complete putrefaction.

By the side of this melancholy heap of men in prey, while yet living, to a general corruption, is exhibited, from time to time, another spectacle, which causes no less horror. It is on the edge of this same road, which leads to the only gate that CANEA has on the land side, that criminals, who have undergone the terrible punishment of empalement, are exposed. They are ranged on each side of the road; and in this dreadful rank are seen men whose body is longitudinally transpierced by a stake, some dead, others expiring; some smoking their pipe, with as much sang-froid as if they were sitting on cushions, railing at the Europeans, and living, as long as twenty-four hours, in the most excruciating torments.

But let us turn aside our eyes from these objects, which inspire pity and horror, and direct them to images less revolting. I beheld, for the first time, in a field near CANEA, the *Romeca*, a dance mingled with singing, which the present Greeks have received from their ancestors, and which they have preserved nearly in all its details. Less constant in our tastes, as well as in our pleasures, by what a multiplicity of changes have they not varied? And who could give the
enumeration

enumeration of all the species of dances which have succeeded each other among us, only within these two centuries?

The dance of the Greeks of CANDIA is not destitute of simplicity and nobleness. According to the opinion of an inestimable writer*, it is the most ancient of all: HOMER has described it†, and it is the image of the labyrinth of CRETE, of which it imitates the turnings and windings. The antiquity of this dance has, indeed, something imposing; but, if we consider it without prepossession, we find in it a serious and grave turn, too remote from the gaiety which we expect to meet with in rural hops. Their songs have not more vivacity; they are slow and languid; and the habit which the Greeks have of fingering through the nose, renders their songs still more drawling and less sprightly.

I saw the Candiot dance conducted by a Greek, who, after having studied some time at PADUA, had set up as an apothecary at CANEA. This man, who was elderly, very tall, thin, meagre, and lank, introduced into his steps and his fingering a gravity which had something truly risible; and his snuffling tone was very unpleasant, at the same time that his stern countenance formed a very striking contrast with the beautiful persons, the rosy complexion, the sweet smile, and the large and expressive black eyes, of the young girls who composed the dance.

This apothecary, an intelligent and estimable man, lived under the protection of FRANCE, and he was much attached to our nation. He

* GUY'S *Lettres sur la Grèce*, Letter xiii.

† Iliad, book xviii. and see POPE'S version, line 657.

wore a long robe in the Greek style; but, in lieu of the cap or calotte of his countrymen, his head was covered with a large cocked hat, a sign of the liberty which he enjoyed. The different marks of the emancipation of men are deserving of notice. Here, the cap is reckoned to be the indication of it; elsewhere, it is the hat. People are not better agreed, as to these signs of liberty, than as to liberty itself; and men have never been less free than when, by vain exterior marks, it has been meant to persuade them that they were so.

CHAPTER XX.

Gardens of the Island of Candia.—Comparison between those gardens and ours.—Corn and agriculture.—Olive-trees. — Plane-trees. — Orange-trees, &c.—Description of the groves formed by different species of trees.—Acacia.—Jasmine.—Colocasia.—Fruit-trees.—Birds.—Solitary black-bird.—Flowers.—Shrubs.—Aromatic Plants.—Dittany.

TRAVELLERS have taken a pleasure in describing in their narratives, as places replete with charms, the gardens which are in the vicinity of the town of CANEA. SAVARY, in particular, has delighted in painting them; and he has employed, in this picture, the most delicate touches of his pencil, and the most brilliant colours of his pallet*. They are, indeed, very agreeable; but, like the gardens of the other parts of the EAST, they by no means resemble ours; and we should be disappointed, if, on entering them, we expected to find there compartments, symmetry, order in the plantations, regularity in the feed-plots, straight alleys, in short, all the accessories which accompany the elegant uniformity of our enclosures. These, properly speaking, are orchards, groves, clumps of foliage, which the shears respect, and which are surrounded by groups of fruit-trees; spaces covered with vegetables, or decorated with flowers; other leguminous plants, other flowers scattered, and, as if thrown by chance, grow between the trees and shrubs; the line there is an implement useless to the gardener; he makes no more use of it than of the pruning-knife; paths, rather than walks, wind under the shade of these little woods. The hand of man, which is observable in our orchards and par-

terres, even when we strive to conceal it, by endeavouring to circumscribe and reduce around us the diversified scenes of Nature, is, in a manner, imperceptible in these confused assemblages of a multitude of various plants.

But this appearance of confusion, which is truly the symmetry of Nature, is not without its agreeableness. Magnificence springs from the bosom of the arts; but the pomp of luxury which astonishes, which dazzles, produces only the pride of the senses. Not one of those sensations which please the heart, satisfy it, and procure it pure and sweet enjoyments, is to be found in our confined and noisy walks, in the midst of the elegant and stiff designs of our parterres, of rows of trees, planted and trimmed in a workman-like manner, of the decorations of luxury, of laborious and expensive efforts of waters, spouting into the air, or pent up between the straight borders of a canal, the two extremities of which the eye embraces, or falling again, at no small cost, on steps; a very contracted image of the majestic cascades, whence rivers precipitate their foaming waves. Let the proud citizen, whose contracted heart sighs only after frivolous pleasures and factitious and barren enjoyments, not forsake the enclosures of opulence and monotony; let him not enter into these solitary recesses, which have not cost heaps of gold, and of which Nature has defrayed all the expense. He is too unmindful of her to relish her charms, and he would experience nothing but disgust in places which are consecrated to her, and which she has taken pains to embellish.

You, who, surrounded by the tumultuous corruption of our manners, have found means to preserve yourselves from the insatiable thirst of riches, which dries up the sources of honourable sentiments; who have avoided ambitious immorality, near which every idea of generosity and true greatness are stifled; you, who, simple in your tastes, in your habits,

your affections, have not run after brilliant chimeras, and sacrificed to vices, the idols of society; you, whose sensibility has preserved its delicacy, approach, I am going to conduct you towards one of those spots in the Island of CRETE, which, according to our ideas, ought not to bear the name of gardens.

We are in one of the beautiful plains in the environs of CANEA. First, remark all the signs of fertility, spread over this land, happy from the abundance of its various productions. Fields in culture promise rich harvests. Other plains, equally fruitful, are frequently met with in the island; Plenty had there, in like manner, fixed herself; but the tyrannic government which oppresses this country, has been sufficiently powerful to expel it; several districts have remained uncultivated; various species of corn, which furnished the subsistence of a population more numerous than it is in our days, and was a branch of exterior commerce, are now insufficient; and often is seen arriving in the harbours, grain destined for filling up the forced intervals of culture, on a soil ever ready to repay the laborious advances of the husbandman. You will doubtless repeat with me, “Woe and ruin to the tyrants, to whom
“agriculture is an object of indifference and persecution!”

Behold those great trees which form a sort of forests; they are olive-trees: under a climate, a stranger to the severe cold of our winters, they perish only from age. These useful trees are loaded with a prodigious quantity of fruit, from which is expressed oil, an important branch of the commerce of CRETE, but it is there badly manufactured; the inhabitants are ignorant of the art of refining it, and rendering it agreeable to the taste; and the Europeans purchase it only for their soap-houses and other manufactories.

Farther on, are plane-trees, which attain a considerable height, and cover a large space with their thick foliage. They acquire a prodigious growth; their branches extend afar; the sun cannot penetrate through a multitude of obstacles, which are opposed to its rays by the accumulated surfaces of their broad leaves. The obscurity which reigns at the foot of these colossuses of Nature, has something noble, but at the same time too gloomy; and one cannot penetrate into it without a sort of tremor.

But here we are in one of those gardens which bear so little resemblance to ours. What a charming shade we are under!..... You recognise those trees which our art cannot suffer to grow at liberty, which we imprison in our green-houses during half the year, and which all our pains preserve only in a state of languor. With what vigour they grow here in a substantial ground, which the hoar-frosts never deprive of a gentle warmth! Their boughs extend and intertwine without constraint; no one thinks of mutilating them, for the purpose of giving them a regular outline; they are not of a spherical form, whose surface presents only truncated branches and leaves half cut, without shade, without grace, and almost always without fruit. See how the branches of the latter are loaded with large clusters of flowers and fine fruits. But that orchard, which flatters the senses in so agreeable a manner, is not entirely formed of trees bearing the sweet orange. You will there find the bitter orange, lemons, and citrons. The almond-tree, the pomegranate-tree with purple fruit, mingle their boughs and their shade; and, under these rich arbours, the humble violet is likewise to be remarked for its beautiful and modest dress, and from the sweet perfume which it exhales.

The great rivulet which you saw in the plain, and whose winding banks are covered with myrtles and oleanders, has been divided into several branches. Its silvery waters, flowing without constraint in little canals,
which

which have the irregularity of those formed by Nature, bring coolness under bowers already so agreeably shaded. Here, no troublesome crowd comes to rouse you from the sweet reveries to which you are invited, by the delightful tint of obscurity of these balmy places. Here, you may wander alone; friendship, love may accompany you, and nothing distracts you from the intimacy of the communications of the one, nor from the transports and effusions of the other. Do you conceive that it is possible to imagine retreats more captivating, solitudes more propitious to love? The silence which here reigns, a mysterious shade, the sweetest perfumes, every thing gently agitates the senses, every thing disposes to sensibility, and to its sweetest emotions. Under the same climate, in a country not very remote, but in retreats less agreeable, I also felt those tender agitations.....But I was not long happy; jealous fate snatched me from sweet transports. There are men born for misfortune, whom a fatal destiny pursues, whose soul is incessantly in prey to the most poignant pains: alas! I am of that number.....Excuse me, my tears flow; but they are as much the effect of tender and delightful recollections, as of the expression of my sorrow.

Leguminous plants lie more particularly on that side; but, in order to dispel from these places every thing that can recall the idea of monotony, several trees have been planted in the midst of these little divisions, which we cannot call compartments. The acacia, with clusters of yellow flowers, perfumes them with its sweet emanations; with what vigour it grows in this land of fecundity! I had already seen it embellish the balmy groves of ROSSETTA, where the Arabs call it *seiffuban*; here the Greeks give it the name of *gazie**. Here are bushes of Arabian jasmine, whose powerful, but agreeable odour, is softened by its mixture with that of the other flowers by which they are surrounded. The branches

* *Mimosa farnefiana*. LINN.—*Ang.* Farnesian fragrant acacia.

of these beautiful jasmines become sufficiently long and thick, and grow also sufficiently straight, to be perforated throughout their length, and form large pipe-stems, highly esteemed in TURKEY.

Melons, cucumbers grow pell-mell among the pot-herbs; layers, glasses, either in frame or in the shape of bells, are useless on an excellent soil which is never deprived of heat. You are not acquainted with that tall plant with large leaves; it is a beautiful species of arum, called colocasia, or great Egyptian arum*. In this island, as in EGYPT, where it has in like manner been cultivated from time immemorial, its roots are dressed, which have pretty much the taste of our potatoes.

Groups of fruit-trees rise above these useful plants. You recognise the apple-tree, the pear-tree, the small cherry-tree, the walnut-tree, the fig-tree, &c.; but the fruits of the greater part of these trees are of a quality very inferior to those which grow in our country. It is not the fault of the soil, nor of the climate; but the inhabitants are ignorant of the art of varying the forms and the flavour of fruits, and of making the stem, which supports them, bear foreign ones. Grafting, which would here yield delicious productions, is not in use, and we see here none but trees which we call *sauvageons*, or wild stocks, because they are such as they were produced by Nature. Your eyes dwell on that species of apricot-tree, which has, in fact, some affinity to ours, but which is unknown in EUROPE. This tree is peculiar to the warm countries of the EAST; it is common in SYRIA and in EGYPT; in CANDIA, it no longer has the same flavour that it acquires in those countries; grafting would render it still more agreeable, and its fruit would become larger. I know not what name the Greeks of CANDIA give to that small apricot; in SYRIA

* *Arum maximum Ægyptiacum, quod vulgo colocasia*.—C. Baubin. Bri. 193.—*Arum colocasia*.—LINN. The Egyptians call it *coulcass*.

and in EGYPT the Arabs call it *mischmisch**. It is there dried, and afterwards dressed with different kinds of viands: this is one of the dishes which are there most commonly served up at the table of the rich.

In these enchanted groves, you probably expected to meet with a multitude of little birds, which have made them their habitual abode and the domain of their loves. Here they live in perfect security; man disturbs not their union, nor the repose of their rising family; he endeavours not to attract them, nor to surprise them in cruel snares. Neither can we consider as useless beings those amiable guests, which, from their variegated colours, their singing, and their movements, are not one of the smallest attractions of these orchards; they pay for the sweet tranquillity that they are suffered to enjoy, by devouring a number of insects hurtful to plants, and which multiply with the more abundance under a sky ever temperate. In this mixture of various species you will distinguish the linnet, the nightingale, the petty-chap, the gold-finch, the chaffinch, the bull-finch, the titmouse, &c. You love to behold again the birds which surround and enliven our rural habitation. But listen a moment; do you hear, on the agrestic and uninhabited summits of the mountains, which crown the charming plain where we are, soft and melodious sounds that are echoed among the rocks? They are produced by a scarcer bird, the solitary blackbird†. How those sonorous, but sweet and languishing tones flatter the ear, and penetrate the soul disposed to a sweet melancholy! The Greeks give to this bird, whose singing fills the deserts, the name of *petro-cockifo*, bird of the rocks; and the Turks that of *kajabout-bowl*, which signifies nightingale of the rock. Its brilliant warbling occasions it to be in request in the great towns of TURKEY, where it costs as much as

* *Prunus Armeniaca*, *misjmisj*. Forsk. Flor. Egypt. Arab. page 67.

† *Le merle solitaire*. BUFFON. Hist. Nat. des Oiseaux.—*Turdus cyanus*. LINN.

a hundred dollars, that is, about two hundred and twenty-five livres of our money.

For enriching and perfuming such charming retreats, it was not enough that innumerable clusters of flowers should hang above the ground; its surface is also, in a manner, strewn with them. You admire their brilliant colour and dazzling variety. They are, nevertheless, only plants natural to the island, and foreign lands have not been laid under contribution for this elegant decoration. With the exception of a few shades more lively and a part more regular, for which they are indebted to a slight degree of culture and to the choice of the soil, these flowers shine with equal lustre in the midst of the verdure of the plains, and on the declivity of the hills. By extending our walk beyond the limits of this garden, with which I have just made you acquainted, you will see scattered the same flowers that are there assembled. It is principally from the Island of CANDIA that our florists have procured the beautiful species of ranunculuses and anemones, which constitute the ornament of our parterres. Whole plains are enamelled with narcissuses; lilies, tuberoses, hyacinths, roses, saffron, orchis of uncommon beauty, present themselves at every step.

You must not imagine that the oleanders and myrtles, the ornaments of the rivulet which we have crossed, have there been planted, and do not grow spontaneously. The former are to be met with wherever there are running waters, and in all cool places; and the shrub consecrated to Love there forms hedges, thickets, &c. and both are so common that they might almost be considered as the brambles of the country. Other shrubs cover the hills and the rocks with their elegant foliage, and embellish them with their flowers. You there distinguish

guish a pretty species of holly, which the Greeks call *kadomelas* or *koudomalia**, together with the medlar, the buckthorn, the trefoil-tree, &c.

These clumps, which Nature has distributed with so much grace, are intermingled with aromatic plants, such as common thyme, creeping or wild thyme, sage, marjoram, savory, &c. &c. Their smell, as well as their verdure, is blended and confounded; it impregnates the air with delightful emanations. You see how the famous fraxinella or dittany of CRETE, celebrated by the ancients, clothes with profusion the rocks on which we are walking. The peasants collect it, and make it into small bundles of the size of the fist, tying it with rush; these they bring to the market of CANEA and other towns, where this plant is much esteemed by the present inhabitants. Its balsamic odour is preserved for a great length of time: I have still remaining some of this dittany, which I brought home from my travels in CANDIA, and which, for upwards of twenty years past, has scarcely lost any of its smell, or of its virtues. It is a vulnerary, and an excellent stomachic; I have seen very good effects from it, and I have made use of it with great success on several occasions.

So great an abundance of salutary plants renders the climate of CANDIA the most healthful in the world. HIPPOCRATES sent hither his patients to breathe the air, charged with wholesome vapours, and I would advise you also to fix your abode here, could this beautiful country cease to be polluted by the presence and domination of the barbarians, who have snatched it from the hands of civilized people.

* *Mespilus apii folio lucido elegantius laciniato.* TOURN.

CHAPTER XXI.

Turks and Greeks of Candia.—Women.—Climate.—Agriculture.—Olive-trees.—Cotton.—Mulberry-tree.—Sesamum.—Wines.—Forests.—Rock-rose.—Ladanum.—Horses.—Dogs.—Turkish Dog.—Hogs.—A female Greek villager—Bees, honey, and wax.—Causes of the rise in the price of wax, and means of preventing it.

UNDER a sky which the father of physic considered as the restorer of the health of mankind, the human species must naturally have partaken of so happy an influence. This, in fact, is what strikes the observer, as soon as he lands in the Island of CANDIA. The Turks, whose race is already so handsome, have there acquired a taller stature, muscles more prominent and more strongly marked, broader chest and shoulders, all the proportions which constitute beauty and strength, together with an imposing step and carriage; but, through all these advantages, which we could not but wish to admire, the sternness of their countenance gives to their majestic exterior a formidable impression. This sort of brilliant acquisition, which the Turks have made in CANDIA, though general among them is not so with the Greeks of that island. Of a stature less tall, a corpulence less prominent, a step less solemn, a make less robust, but more graceful, this people appear to have degenerated under a climate which is natural to them, and in which they are abandoned to slavery, which alike degrades both the form of the body and that of the mind.

And this same disparity in the exterior attributes of the Turk and the Greek is also met with among the women of those two nations. The Turkish women are there handsomer than in the other parts of the East; whereas the female Greeks have, generally speaking, fewer charms, than they possess in several other countries. This fact is worthy of attention; it does not appear easy to assign its cause. How happens it that a temperature so favourable to the fine and vigorous constitution of foreigners has not, or at least appears not to have, any influence on that of the natives? The heavy yoke of cruel slavery may probably, as I have just said, with regard to the men, lessen the effects of a happy climate; but this impression cannot operate with so much activity on the person of the women, who, nevertheless, seem to have lost many more of their allurements. Does a long habit of good destroy its sweet impression? Or else have the excellent qualities of the air, which is breathed in CANDIA, something too vigorous, and, if I may use the expression, too masculine for the delicate organs of the women, who have been exposed to it from time immemorial?

With the exception of the leprosy, which was brought thither from ASIA, and which, with precautions, might be made to disappear, as we have extirpated it in FRANCE, where it was one of the fatal presents of the crusades, there are no contagious nor prevailing disorders in the Island of CANDIA. I speak not of the plague, which, in countries where every prudential measure is unknown, may be introduced there accidentally. The water is as good as the air; it runs down on all sides from the mountains; and, having great rapidity in its course over inclined rocks, it preserves its limpidness, and does not collect into ponds or marshes, whence might issue pernicious exhalations.

The nature of the productions of the earth partakes of that of the atmosphere; their good qualities would not be inferior to their abundance, if agriculture, that mother of states, could, I do not say be there encouraged, but cease to be disgraced and persecuted. Commerce and industry, in order to fix themselves there with splendour, are waiting only for a change in the government, and men more worthy to reign over a country which the inappreciable advantages that it has received from Nature have rendered famous, still more than the annals of antiquity. Its plains, abandoned to an active culture, divested of every obstacle, might, like those of SICILY, become the granary which would insure the subsistence of a population more numerous than it is in our days, as well as that of the neighbouring and less favoured countries. On a land, which its nature and that of the atmosphere which warms it render impatient to produce, the inhabitants would take advantage of the forwardness of the harvests, in order to commit to it, in the same year, plants which would double its produce. A change of crops, well managed, would afford the facility of multiplying cattle, which are wanting there at the present day, and which, in the eyes of every intelligent farmer, are a certain source of fecundity and riches. New kinds of culture would find, on a soil so fertile, the elements of a productive vegetation, at the same time that those to which the natives are habituated, would acquire greater increase and abundance.

In the first rank of these ancient productions of the earth, which still offer some speculation to commerce, but which, supported by a good administration, would become so flourishing, we must place the olive-tree. No climate, no soil is more propitious to it than that of CANDIA, and the oils which are drawn from it, refined like ours, would cease to be common oils, fit only for soap-houses and manufactories.

Independently

Independently of wheat and barley, which can scarcely be of a superior quality, cotton also is there cultivated; but this commodity is neglected in the vallies of CANDIA, although it succeeds in them extremely well. Hands, and activity, which are discouraged by slavery and exactions, are wanting to agriculture, as well as to industry, and plains which the labour of men might bring into unison with the rich profusion of Nature, remain useless and forsaken.

This is the case with the mulberry-tree, by no means plentiful in CANDIA, though it would grow there amazingly well, and would make of the silk-trade, at most null in our days, one of the branches of public riches.

Sesamum*, the oil of which has, since ancient times, been much in use in the EAST, also occupies some place in the plains; but this serviceable plant is still more neglected than the others.

One of the productions of the Island of CANDIA, which has preserved its ancient reputation, is wine, which, in some districts, is still delicious. Every one knows that HOMER has praised the wine of CANDIA, and that JUPITER drank no other nectar during his stay in the island. The caloyers of a little convent, situated in a very fertile and very agreeable plain, half a league from CANEA†, presented me with a wine still worthy of figuring at the table of the gods, and which, in point of delicacy and perfume, was not inferior to the best known wines. The malmsey, which is made in the environs of Mount IDA, is also much esteemed; but all these CANDIA wines must be drunk with great caution; they are of a fiery quality, fly very quickly to the head, and shake the nerves. The

* *Sesamum indicum*. LINN.

† In this convent I saw the epitaph of a child of a French consul, *M. Dese*, that was interred there in 1715.

Turks of CANEA are less scrupulous observers of the prohibitions of MAHOMET, than those of other countries. Several drink wine with much pleasure, and it is not uncommon there to meet some who have all the symptoms of intemperance, and the effrontery of people who are not afraid of publicly manifesting a contempt for the laws. It may easily be conceived, that the strength of the wine necessarily increases the violence of their character, and to meet them at that time is not unattended with danger.

Although the commercial relations of FRANCE with CANDIA have been habitual, the wines of that island have never been an object of speculation, whether they have been little known, or, which is more probable, whether the quantity which is made of them be not sufficiently considerable to become an article of commerce of great importance in the eyes of our merchants in the LEVANT, who concerned themselves little to discover new branches to add to those pointed out to them by an old routine. I am convinced that the CANDIA wines, brought into our countries, would not appear inferior to their ancient renown. The Greeks, certain of finding new vents, would extend the culture of their vines, the produce of which would be another mean of facilitating mutual exchanges, and increasing the advantages of a reciprocal commerce.

The plantations of Nature are no less useful in a country on which she has poured her favours with profusion, than those which are due to culture. Not to mention those charming shrubs, which an eternal spring preserves, with so many charms, on a land that they incessantly adorn, nor of that prodigious quantity of aromatic plants with which the rocks are embalmed, forests cover, in several places, the declivity of the mountains, and crown the summit of the hills. Pines, cedars, and firs, there shoot forth straight and tall stems, an inappreciable resource for ship-building, as well as the resin which exudes from these vast nurseries of Nature. No country

country, perhaps, unites, with so many advantages and so much profusion, objects of great utility to those of agreeableness; a valuable union, since it is the base of the prosperity of nations, and of the transient, but successive happiness of those of whom they are composed.

On the mountains in the vicinity of CANEA, and at the foot of Mount IDA, grows a species of rock-rose*, which yields *ladanum* or *labdanum*, a resinous substance that serves for perfumes, and the preparation of certain drugs. The ancient Greeks called it *ledon*; it was of great value in their eyes, and they drew it from some other countries, and particularly SYRIA and the Isle of CYPRUS. The ancients intrusted, in a manner, the goats with the care of collecting this article. These animals, a real scourge to trees, on whose leaves and boughs they browse, fell with avidity on the rock-roses, whose odour attracts them, and the resin which trickled from the branches, broken by their teeth, so pernicious to forests and plantations, clung to their beards, there became indurated, and formed little balls, which were carefully collected, but which were almost always mixed with goat's hair †, and infected with the strong smell of that animal. At this day ladanum is collected with greater cleanliness; for that purpose is used a sort of long-handled whip, formed of a double row of leathern straps ‡, which is gently passed over the leaves of the rock-roses, in the hottest time of the year, and during the greatest heat of the day. The whole number of straps of which this very simple instrument is composed, becomes loaded with shining drops as clear as turpentine: these are scraped off and made into cakes: this is ladanum, which, collected in this manner, would be

* *Cistus ladaniferus*. LINN.

† PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xii. cap. xvii.

‡ TOURNEFORT has given the figure of one of these whips, in the first volume of his *Voyage du Levant*, page 73 of the 4th edition.

very pure, had not a spirit of fraud taught the Greeks to adulterate it, by mixing it with sand.

This sort of crop, which preliminary labours have not introduced, and which Nature alone prepares every year, is still profitable to the peasants of CANDIA. Independently of the quantity of ladanum which passes into our countries, a great consumption is made of it in the East. It is a custom almost general to knead little bits of it between the fingers, and to smell the sweet and rather agreeable odour which they diffuse; the women, principally, take a pleasure in handling it in this manner. Besides its perfume, this substance is reckoned to avert contagion, and to possess several other medical properties. In the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, I have seen it pretty frequently used as a remedy for the head-ach, by applying it to the arteries of the temples.

If from the substances which the land of the Island of CANDIA produces, and which are of so excellent a quality, that, according to the ancients, every thing that grows in that island is incomparably better than what is gathered in other countries, we pass to the useful animals which are there kept, we shall discover the same favours of Nature, the same remissness, the same negligence, on the part of the inhabitants, the necessary consequence of general oppression; in short, the same means of amelioration in agriculture and of extension in commerce. The race of horses which is there seen originally came from BARBARY; but they have extremely degenerated in point of form and beauty. Handsome horses are scarce; but, on the other hand, there are none, perhaps, that can be compared to them for being strong and supple in their limbs, and also for being surefooted. Accustomed to climb up steep mountains, or to descend very inclined planes, their step is firm, and whether they carry a rider, or whether, loaded with heavy burdens, they seem to advance with difficulty, they never stumble in

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the most difficult places. The address with which they ascend and descend roads, which are nothing more than surfaces, almost level, of smooth marble, bordered by precipices, and on which the feet of the horses appear not to have any hold, is truly admirable. By dint of having set their feet in the same place, they have marked the impression of them, and, in the roughest descents, they cling, by putting them exactly into these little hollows, which they seek, and know how to find again with wonderful exactness. However frightful the road may appear, the traveller needs not be under any uneasiness on that account; it is sufficient for him to suffer the horse to proceed, and not confine his movements, by endeavouring to check the bridle, or to pull up his head, so as to hinder him from seeing the only little excavations that can prevent him from falling and throwing his rider.

These excellent horses, intended for travelling in a country entirely covered with rocky mountains, are, for the most part, abandoned to people who over-load and use them ill. The signs of misery, the marks of ill usage and of want of care, are to be remarked in the greater part of them. Such is, in general, the cruelty of the disposition of man, who repays the important services of a species of animals, all whose faculties are consecrated to him, without reserve, only by the coldest insensibility and barbarity the most ungrateful.

Another species of domestic animals of the Island of CANDIA, the faithful friends of man, and companions of the horse, were formerly reckoned, on account of their fleetness and agility, the best in GREECE, after those of LACEDEMONIA. But their race is degenerated, especially since the Turks, great enemies to dogs, have made themselves masters of that beautiful country. The dogs of CANDIA, like almost all those of the EAST, are a species of large greyhounds or coursing dogs, which, to be

handsome animals, require only a little attention. But, in those countries of tyranny and slavery, these animals, to whom attachment is a want, cannot exercise that amiable quality of their instinct; every where repulsed, in vain they endeavour to exhibit some sterile marks of it; obliged to check themselves, even in the very signs of their affection, they, nevertheless, miserable as they are, prefer living with man, and, as it were, in spite of him, rather than emancipate themselves from a condition of neglect and misfortune, by returning to their primitive state of liberty, in which they would, indeed, no longer have ill usage to undergo; but which would deprive them of the hope of obeying the fate of the law imposed on them by Nature, of having no other will than that of their masters, no other sentiment than that of absolute devotion.

On the subject of dogs, which are in very great numbers in the towns of TURKEY, I shall remark, that we might seek there in vain that species, rather uncommon and without hair, which we call the *Turkish dog*, and sometimes the naked dog. It is not in the temperate climate of TURKEY that dogs lose their hair, it is not even under the burning sky of EGYPT; for those seen in the most northern part, which is distinguished by the name of LOWER EGYPT, are of the race of large greyhounds, deformed by want, which are found in the other towns of TURKEY; and those of UPPER EGYPT have long hair, and somewhat resemble our shepherd's dog. I cannot say, with precision, from what country the Turkish dog originally came; but I have never met with a single one in TURKEY; and whatever inquiry I made, those to whom I applied were unable to indicate to me where any of them were to be found, or even to give me to understand that they were known in that country. I have even some reason to suspect that this is a distinct and separate species; and the scarcity of these dogs in EUROPE might lead us to presume that they are a simple accidental variety in a species of animals, the races of which are incessantly crossed

crossed and mingled; a variety which may have been called *Turkish dog*, because, having scarcely any hair, they have some resemblance to the Turks, with whose scrupulous attention to eradicate their hair every one is well acquainted.

In CANDIA no carnivorous and ferocious animal exists. The shepherd is easy as to the fate of his flock, which has not to dread the murderous tooth of the wolf. Accordingly the sheep there pass their life, in the open air, browsing, at full liberty, on the odoriferous plants with which the mountains abound. Grottoes, formed by Nature in the bosom of the rocks, serve them as a shelter against storms and bad weather. The milk given by the ewes and she-goats furnishes very good cheese. Those which are made at SPHACHIA, the southern district of the island, have a great reputation, and are sent all over the LEVANT. But a more important article of commerce is wool, of which there is also exported a small quantity that will appear very trivial, if we compare it to the abundance of the food which the country affords for the support of flocks more numerous and better taken care of, than they are under a government, the real scourge of agriculture, and under which nothing prospers but tyranny.

The Greeks also keep hogs, a greater number of which would be profitable to rural economy. The inhabitants ought at least to feel themselves, in some measure, obliged to the Turks, to whom hogs are animals unclean and detested, for not preventing their being reared in the country-places, where, however, they are not very common. A hog is even a present which is of some value in the eyes of the Greek villagers. I happened, one day, to be in a village between CANEA and RETIMO, with my janizary, and my Provençal renegado. I lodged at the house of an honest farmer, whose wife meddled a little with physic and bleeding. I never received so many marks of frank and cordial hospitality, as during the very short stay which

I made with these worthy people. The woman, in particular, lavished on me the most officious civilities, and the most delicate attentions. She might be reckoned one of the handsome women of the island, where, as I have said, beauty is rather uncommon. She was no longer young; but her face was characterized by those large and noble features, which are the appendage of the Greek women in general; her eyes were remarkably fine; her hair, of a shining black, was braided with ribands, which only half surrounded it, and this braid, rolled on the top of the head, formed a sort of helmet or turban, which set off, with no inconsiderable advantage, the features of her face. To these exterior allurements, this worthy Greek woman added a tender and generous heart. In order partly to testify to her my gratitude, I offered her an excellent lancet, for which she had appeared to have a great fancy. She attached so much value to this trifling present, that she was determined to make me one in her turn.

The morning before my departure, while the attendants were getting ready our horses, she caused a live hog to be brought, and tied on mine, which I was greatly astonished to see on my saddle, when I was preparing to mount. The not over-scrupulous janizary, who accompanied me, had himself assisted to fasten on this singular portmanteau. With an infinite deal of trouble I got it removed. My landlady appeared grieved at my refusal, and I had no small difficulty to make her comprehend how highly improper it would be that I should enter a Turkish town, where hogs are held in abhorrence, with one of those animals tied on behind me.

A branch of rural industry, which is not sufficiently encouraged in our country, and which succeeds in CANDIA with great facility, and without much

much trouble, is the multiplication of bees. In order to shew the goodness of the honey which they yield, the ancients feigned that JUPITER had been fed on it, on Mount IDA. This honey is, in fact, of the greatest beauty; and wax, which enters at present, but on a very small scale, into the export-trade of the island, would there be extremely abundant, if activity, the mother of industry, was not diminishing daily with the population.

In travels of the nature of these, which consist not in a simple narrative, it is, no doubt, allowable to make a few useful comparisons, and not constantly to keep our eyes fixed on the countries which we are visiting. On turning back our looks for a moment towards our own country, I see people who are astonished that wax should there be constantly becoming scarcer and dearer, although the prodigious consumption which the churches made of that substance, no longer exists. For my part, I am only astonished that wax is not already at a higher price. Independently of the severe winters, which, within these few years, have caused the hives to perish in our northern provinces, and the very perceptible diminution in the number of persons who applied themselves to the rearing of bees, the trade of the LEVANT is lost to us, and every one knows that it was principally from those countries that we received the most considerable part of the wax which was consumed in FRANCE. On the other hand, the disorder ever increasing in the Turkish empire, the troubles there subsisting, the partial wars of which some of its provinces are the theatre, and the stagnation of trade have also diminished in the LEVANT the number of hives which were there taken care of, and consequently the quantity of wax which was drawn from them. All these circumstances ought to induce us to extend over our territory, restored to the repose of which it has been so long deprived, the rearing of bees, and to find,
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in our own stock, means to dispense, at least in a very great measure, with the burdensome assistance of foreign countries.

This kind of industry is easy and profitable, and it is an agreeable recreation for whoever loves a country life. It has claims to the encouragement of authority, and that encouragement is simple like its object; it consists only in favour and protection.

CHAPTER XXII.

Carnivorous animals. — Birds of prey. — Serpents. — Tarantula. — Mining spider. — Lizard. — Golden plovers. — Thrushes. — Hydrophobia. — Proscarabæus. — Candia. — Cnoffus. — Gortyna. — Labyrinth. — Retimo. — Harbour of Paleo-Castro. — Sphachiots. — Pyrrhic dance.

AN island, which gave birth to JUPITER, and in which every thing announced the favour and the gratitude of the gods, ought not to contain any thing mischievous, nor feed any noxious animal. The ancients, struck by the numerous allurements of the Island of CANDIA, which they regarded as an abode truly celestial, did not content themselves with saying that no wild beast shed blood on its territory, which is the truth; since, on the supposition that carnivorous quadrupeds had there existed, their races have entirely disappeared, and the useful and innocent ewe is not in fear of seeing its feeble lamb carried off by cruel spoilers. But exaggeration has been blended with the accounts of the ancients, or rather with the encomiums that they took a pleasure in scattering over the description of a country of which there is sufficient good to be said, without there being a necessity for having recourse to imaginary advantages. It was asserted that birds of prey even could not there subsist, and that, if any were brought thither, they soon perished. It is unnecessary to premise, that this was carrying the matter a little too far: the bird of prey, whose rapid and continued flight clears great spaces, may very easily arrive in the Island of CANDIA, establish itself, and multiply on the shattered summits of the high rocks with which it is thickly strewn, or on the top of the large trees which tower above its surface:

surface: the small game, which there abounds, affords a food easily acquired by birds that live by the death of others; and the nature of their retreats would render it very difficult to dislodge them. And, indeed, birds of prey, and even those whose too tender eye cannot support the brightness of day, and which are addicted only to nocturnal excursions, are there met with rather frequently, although the ancients had thence excluded them without just reason.

It is also without foundation that it was formerly asserted, that the Island of CANDIA was exempt from serpents and other venomous animals: PLINY, nevertheless, made an exception in favour of the *phalangium*, or *tarantula*. On a hilly soil, which retains no stagnant waters, and which long rains do not impregnate with too much humidity, the propagation of reptiles and insects cannot be considerable, and there they find not the elements which compose their poison. BÉLON had already observed that three species of serpents were there known: the *ophis*, the *ochendra*, and the *ephloti**. It is no easy matter to indicate, with precision, what are the species distinguished by these ancient names: to clear up this point of criticism, it would be necessary to enter into discussions, the result of which would afford nothing very satisfactory, or otherwise have beheld these serpents, and this is not the case with me.

The tarantula is here reckoned to be very venomous, and even to occasion death; but I have every reason to suspect that there also exists here another species of spider, as dangerous as the tarantula. This is on what I ground my conjectures. Several Frenchmen, who had resided for a long time at CANEA, and even some of the most intelligent

* *Observations de plusieurs singularités et choses mémorables, trouvées en Grèce, &c.*

Greeks, told me that a spider, whose sting is mortal, was to be found in this country. They could not describe it to me in such a manner as to make me recognise it; but they were acquainted with the tarantula, and they assured me, that the insect of which they were speaking to me differed from it greatly: indeed, they gave me a convincing proof of this difference. It is well known that the tarantula dwells in the ground during the winter, or during the rainy season; and that, in the dry season, it keeps in the air, and spins its web. The spider here in question, on the contrary, though as big as the tarantula, lives constantly in subterraneous retreats: these are small cylindrical cavities, clothed internally with threads, and the entrance of which is closed by a hinged lid, similar to that of a snuff-box. This industrious insect is of the species of the mason-spider, which SAUVAGES discovered in LANGUEDOC, and which has also been seen in the Island of CORSICA. For the extremely curious details of the habits of this spider, I refer the reader to a very circumstantial Memoir, which my learned friend LATREILLE has published on this subject, in the *Mémoires de la Société d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris*. He will there see with what implements Nature has provided the insect destined to dig its abode: it carries in its head, above the insertion of the claws, a set of parallel and prominent teeth; it is a sort of rake, with which the animal turns up the earth, and smooths the walls of its retreat.

Although the mining spider of LANGUEDOC is not reckoned venomous, it would not be extraordinary that it should be so in the EAST; we know that this insect, or at least a species very similar, occasions by its sting very serious accidents in JAMAICA*. However, without being scarce in

* See BROWN, *Natural History of JAMAICA*, tab. XLIV. fig. 4; and the Memoir of LATREILLE respecting mining spiders.

CANDIA, the mason-spider does not make its appearance there frequently; because, accustomed to live under ground, it dreads the broad day, and issues from its cell only during the night.

I was also assured that there was, in the same country, a species of lizard very venomous; but I did not see it, and it is only from simple conjecture that I suspect that it might probably be the *gecko**, which is met with in other countries of the East, in the vicinity of the Island of CANDIA, and particularly in BARBARY and EGYPT.

It is to this inconsiderable number of mischievous beings that the danger of inhabiting the Island of CANDIA is reduced; and our readers will admit that these are thorns scarcely perceptible, in the midst of the immense and delightful quantity of flowers and charms with which it is rich and brilliant.

All the necessaries of life are there to be found in great plenty; the coasts abound with fish; the plains and the mountains feed a great deal of game, and, above all, a considerable number of red partridges. Birds of passage come and increase the multitude of those beings which man has consecrated to his voracity. Golden plovers are very common at the beginning of the winter; and when the cold begins to be felt, without ever being sufficiently powerful to form ice, the Greeks of the country-places make on the thrushes a successful attack. Those birds all retire into the groves of orange and lemon trees, to pass the night; their pursuers, with deceitful lights, carry alarm into the midst of these sleeping flocks; imagining that it is day, the thrushes quit the foliage, the charming asylum which a cruel snare converts into a scene of death;

* *Lacerta gecko*. LINN.

they are seen flying round the torches, and they are knocked on the head with large wooden battledores. In this manner the peasants fill sacks with them, and carry them to the markets of the towns.

Although the terrible disorder, with the nature of which we are yet so little acquainted, I mean the hydrophobia, is unknown in warmer countries of the EAST, I have been told that it makes its appearance, but rather seldom indeed, in the Island of CANDIA. DAPPER also mentions that this island has been frequently afflicted by mad dogs, which have from time to time incommoded the inhabitants*. The remedy which the King of PRUSSIA purchased, and caused to be published in 1777, is there known; and it is very probable that it is from that or some neighbouring country, that the possessor of this pretended secret has obtained it, for it was not a novelty. MATHIOLE has spoken of it from AVICENNE†, and I have been assured that, from time immemorial, the Candiots employed it as a sovereign specific against madness. Our consul at CANEA told me, that as far back as 1776, he had sent to FRANCE the insect which furnishes this specific, whence we must conclude that the pretended discovery of this remedy in EUROPE was nothing more than an imposition.

This insect is the *melœ* or oil-beetle, a species of *proscarabæus*‡, the larva of which bears the name of *may-worm*; it is common in our countries; in the spring, it is to be found in gardens, woods, fields, and forests. An oily liquor issues from the body of the insect, when it is touched or crushed. In CANDIA, it is reduced to powder, which the patient swallows; but this remedy possesses a very violent activity; it causes

* *Description de l'Archipel.* folio, page 462.

† *Commentaires sur DIOSCORIDES*, liv. vi.

‡ *Melœ proscarabæus.* LINN.

convulsions, pains in the bowels, inflammations, agony, bleedings at the nose, bloody urine, and even death, when it is taken in too large a dose. The ancient physicians considered it as a favourable symptom, if the man, attacked by madness, passed blood in his urine*; but such curative means are equivalent to the disorder itself, and the moderns have been in the right to relinquish them.

Although CANEA is the most populous and most trading town of the island, yet it is not the capital. CANDIA has preserved that title, even after it has lost the advantages thence accruing. Its harbour, much frequented in the time of the Venetians, has been choked up from the effect of the general improvidence of the Turks, so that it can now admit only the small barks of the country. Merchant-vessels can no longer enter it but in ballast, or with a fourth of their lading; and if they are under the necessity of taking in their cargo, they must, like the ships of war, repair to STAN-DIA, a small island four leagues off, and opposite to CANDIA. This island has preserved its ancient name of DIA; for that of STAN-DIA, which the European navigators give it, is a composition of the Greek words, *eis ten Dias*, to go to *Dia*. Boats convey thither goods on board the shipping.

So great a restraint has reduced to almost nothing the trade of the town of CANDIA; barks bring from CANEA the productions of that part of the island; and shortly, as I have said, the harbour of this latter town will become equally impracticable; and ships, like commerce, will no longer have any point of union, or place to take in their cargoes, but the rocky and uninhabited coast of the Gulf of SUDA.

* MATHIOIE, at the place quoted.

The town of CANDIA, built on the spot which was occupied by the ancient city of HERACLEA, is situated in a beautiful plain, intersected by sloping hills, which share its fertility. It is the *KHANDAK* of the Arabs; a word derived from *candax*, which, according to some of the learned, signifies *entrenchment*. It is evident, from the buildings in this town, that it is not the work of the Turks; straight streets, regular squares, houses substantially constructed—every thing announces that it owes its existence to the Venetians; but every thing announces, at the same time, both the frightful ravages of war and the slower havock of want. Here are still to be seen ruins, the remains of the memorable siege which it sustained, for twenty-three years, against the Ottoman forces. The loss of its commerce has changed its flourishing situation into an unhappy state, and has considerably reduced the number of its inhabitants, who, for the most part, have removed to CANEA, together with the foreign merchants.

It is, nevertheless, still the seat of the general government of the island. The pacha, sent thither by the court of CONSTANTINOPLE, is a pacha with three tails; but, proud of his dignity and of his power, he contents himself with commanding a militia frequently ungovernable: entirely occupied by his private fortune, he thinks only of extending it by exactions, and concerns himself little to re-establish, repair, or procure a few advantages for a country, to which he is a scourge, like the government from which he derives his authority.

Near CANDIA, are lying in the dust the ruins of CNOSSUS, an ancient town where MINOS held his court, and the abode of the most powerful and the most warlike people of the Island of CRETE. A small village, CNOSSOU, would recall to mind the site of the ancient town, were it not discoverable, in a manner no less certain than afflicting, from the rubbish

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covers it, and a great part of which has served for the buildings of modern **CANDIA**.

Some ruins, which occupy a great extent of ground, and still afford fragments of ancient magnificence, are those of **GORTYNA**, a celebrated town, whose power and splendour eclipsed that of **CNOSSUS**. Near this spot is seen the labyrinth; it appears not to be that which was famous in antiquity, and particularly from the story or fable of **ARIADNE** and **THESEUS**. This latter was near **CNOSSUS**, and there no longer appear any vestiges of it. The labyrinth of **GORTYNA** is, according to all appearance, nothing more than immense quarries, such as are to be met with in the vicinity of great towns. Such is the opinion of judicious observers. **SAVARY** combats it; but every one knows that this writer was not the partizan of simple and natural effects; he took a delight in giving to the objects of antiquity, of which he spoke, a very lofty origin, in order that he might take the opportunity of tracing it, very ably no doubt, but in a very uncertain manner, from events which ages cover with an obscurity that it is not always easy to penetrate. In truth, in this labyrinth, or rather in these quarries of **GORTYNA**, there is nothing surprising, and they may be compared to the numerous and immense galleries from which have been taken the stones of the edifices and houses of **PARIS**.

Between **CANEA** and **CANDIA** stands, on the sea-shore, a small town, whose present name of **RETIMO**, is nearly the same as that of **RITHYMNA**, which it formerly bore. Its situation is delightful; the plain which surrounds it is rich in all sorts of provisions; its gardens are very agreeable, and its houses well built; but its harbour is no longer practicable except for the barks of the country; ships remain in the road; yet they anchor there but seldom; and **RETIMO**, which, from its position, the abundance of

oil which is collected in its vicinity, and the other productions of its territory, might be an important place of trade, has, as well as CANDIA, seen a part of its population pass to CANEA.

Independently of the harbour of SUDA, there also exists another equally spacious, convenient, and safe, in the most eastern part of the island, in a gulf formed by Cape SIDERA and Cape SOLOMON; but the coast presents not more habitations than at SUDA. Here are to be seen nothing but ruins, called by the Greeks PALEO CASTRO, a name which they give to all antient towns, a few herdsmen's huts, rocks, and brambles; except a great quantity of red partridges. Contrary winds detained me there for several days, in going to ALEXANDRIA, on board of the ATALANTE frigate, which they had compelled to put into this port. We had with us a felucca. The sight of these two vessels of war so intimidated the shepherds of the coast, that they hastily made their escape, with their flocks, and abandoned to us the soil and their cabins. Not one of them reappeared during our stay. They probably took our vessels for Turkish vessels, and thus secured themselves from the oppression of their crews. What must be the fate of this interesting and unfortunate people of GREECE, since the sole approach of those, to whom a fatal destiny has subjected them, is in their eyes a dreadful scourge!

I shall not undertake to give a description of a country so vast as the Island of CANDIA; this would be the object of a long work, and I have no intention of carrying the present to too great an extent. What I have said of it is sufficient for presenting the general picture of one of the most beautiful and most smiling countries on earth; and longer details would lead me too far. I shall add but one word respecting the tribe of Greeks who inhabit the mountains of SPACHIA, on the south coast of the island. They speak a purer dialect than the other Greeks, because habituated to
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the simple and hard life of mountaineers, they have disdained to mix with the nations which have successively occupied their country. They are good warriors, and very dexterous in shooting with a bow; but several disgrace their courage and their skill by giving themselves up to robbery; frequently they lie in ambush behind the rocks which skirt the roads across the mountains; they attack and kill passengers, and are, above all, dreaded by Turkish travellers.

It is said that the Sphachiots are the only ones among the Greeks who have preserved the Pyrrhic or warlike dance, which is executed with arms in the hand, and at the same time performing various evolutions. It is not astonishing that nations, to whom the terrible representation of war is a sport and recreation, should have savage manners, and be inclined to realize, by violent actions, scenes which they are in the habit of representing in their amusements.

CHAPTER XXIII.

Departure from Canea.—Currents.—Winter-season in the Archipelago.—Hollow agitation of the waters of the sea.—Storm.—Arrival at Argentiera.—Roadstead of Argentiera.—Singular direction of the currents.—San Nicolo.—Maltese privateer.—Turkish ship of war.—A French vessel, loaded with the equipages of Ismael Bey, is wrecked.—Officers of the Porte sent on this occasion.—Their manner of exercising justice.—French agent at Argentiera.—His old services.—The injustice which he experienced.—His influence in the Levant.

THE Provençal polacre which had brought me from ALEXANDRIA to CANEA, in my second visit to the Island of CANDIA, had there left her cargo. The activity of the *caravane*, that is to say, of the carrying-trade from one port to another, was so great in the seas of TURKEY; the circulation of merchandize was so rapid, that, in less than a month, the vessel in which I had arrived, had taken in a fresh cargo for SMYRNA; and, on the 30th of November, 1778, the day on which she set sail from the harbour of CANEA, she had been waiting a week for a favourable wind, in order to proceed to her new destination.

I again availed myself of this vessel to cross the small space of sea, which separates the Isle of CANDIA from the first islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. Though this is a run of no more than about twenty-five or thirty hours, and the winds had not thwarted us, we were three days on our passage. Indeed, we met with some sudden and violent squalls; but,

as they did not throw us out of our course, we could not attribute to them the slowness of our progress. It was occasioned by the currents which set to the southward with so much rapidity, that, the day after our departure from CANEA, we reckoned ourselves at no more than six leagues from the Isle of MILO, whereas, in reality, we were still distant from it upwards of fifteen.

The winter was beginning to be felt in this part of the seas of the LEVANT, not by hoar-frosts, but by impetuous winds; and this bad season, in which navigation is more rough and dangerous, in the midst of a labyrinth of islands and shoals, does not last three months: it is, in general, reckoned only from the middle of December to the middle of February. In 1778, it took place much sooner. As early as the close of November, the atmosphere was loaded with big clouds, driven by violent winds, and the sky was covered with the black and sinister appearance of a tempest. This gloomy anticipation of storms foreboded a remarkable variation in the temperature; the winter of this year was, indeed, a very short one, but very cold, and covered with snow and ice both lands and plants, unaccustomed to lose their gentle warmth and their verdure.

Although the wind was faint, the sky serene, and the surface of the sea slightly furrowed by waves, when we came out of the harbour of CANEA, we felt the ship shake below, in an extraordinary manner; and these movements, which were communicated only from the bottom of the vessel, indicated a hollow and internal agitation, a certain preface of an approaching rising of the waves.

A furious gale of wind from the south-west assailed us at the entrance of the roadstead of ARGENTIERA. I never saw the horizon so darkened:

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the day was hidden: although the sun had scarcely reached the half of his course, night seemed to have spread her black and mournful wings over the earth; and this darkness appeared still more profound from the vivid brightness of the repeated flashes of lightning which clove the skies; thunder burst on all sides; we had disappeared to the eyes of the inhabitants of ARGENTIERA; and their island, which we were on the point of touching, was concealed in a shade impenetrable to the most piercing sight. The danger became imminent, and the faint-heartedness of the captain still increased it: in his distress, he vented his murmurs against me, who had induced him to enter a channel so narrow as that in which we were, and which he would have avoided, had I not wished to be landed at ARGENTIERA. Fortunately, the sea could not rise in this confined space, and we succeeded in casting anchor under shelter of the island.

This is the place the most frequented by ships which navigate in the ARCHIPELAGO. Situated at the entrance of that multitude of islands, it affords to navigators an anchorage the more convenient, as it is open on all sides, and no wind can prevent them from leaving it at pleasure. They likewise find there pilots accustomed to conduct ships in the midst of lands and rocks, separated by a number of winding channels, and affording little space to traverse.

This road of ARGENTIERA is formed by the Isle of MILO to the south-west, by that of ARGENTIERA to the north, and by the small Islands of SAN GEORGIO and of POLIVO to the east. Trading vessels anchor between the Islands of ARGENTIERA and SAN GEORGIO, but nearer to the former, to which they commonly carry out a hawser to serve as moorings. In this position, where vessels are sheltered from the wind and the sea from the north, as much as it is possible to be in this road, they lie quite close to the foot of a high mountain which conceals the view of

the village, and no trace of habitation or culture is there to be discovered.

But this anchorage has not a sufficient depth of water for ships of war and large vessels; they come to more to the north, or to the north-east, in a channel near POLIVO. A remark which, at first sight, appears very extraordinary, is, that in the place where large vessels cast anchor, and where the currents run frequently with great rapidity, the direction of these currents is often contrary to that of the wind; that is to say, that the waters run to the north, when the wind blows from that point, and that they set to the south, when the south wind prevails. Their violence even is in proportion to that of the winds, and so impetuous, that it has happened more than once that a frigate, with her mizentopsail, maintopsail, and forefail loose, could not keep head to wind, but remained riding athwart.

This species of phenomenon, astonishing in the eyes of navigators little accustomed to observation, is the effect of the eddy or current doubled, which causes the waters to take a course contrary to their general direction. The more violently they are impelled by the winds, the more evident is this effect, and the more must it be felt by ships which are exposed to it.

A small cove below the village of ARGENTIERA, and at nearly half the length of the channel, is fit only for the reception of the boats of the country, and, indeed, they are not there in safety. When they have a rather long stay to make on the coast of the island, they proceed more to the northward, to a cove where they are perfectly sheltered. This narrow harbour, which is suitable only to very small vessels, is called SAN NICOLÒ, from the name of a little chapel dedicated to ST. NICHOLAS,

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in whom the Greeks have great confidence. This chapel is the only building on that coast; all there is rock and desert.

There was, on my arrival in the little cove of ARGENTIERA, a Maltese felucca, forming a part of an armament which had sailed from MALTA, and was commanded by a Frenchman named CORAL. The crew of this felucca consisted only of fourteen hands. Of all privateer's-men, this captain was certainly the greatest knave. He was a Slavonian, extraordinarily brave, but still a greater drunkard, and at the same time a plunderer extremely dreaded. He had long followed this trade, and long been known in the ARCHIPELAGO, where he had rendered himself formidable, and had even had the audacity to settle, having married a Greek woman belonging to MYCONI. A Greek, brother to a drogue-man of the PORTE, commanded there; the Slavonian had some difference with him, and ended by giving him a sound drubbing. After this violent proceeding, he rightly judged that it was not possible for him to remain in an island governed by a powerful man whom he had so outrageously treated: he retired to a neighbouring island. But, the Greek having preferred his complaint to the Captain-Pacha, four *tscharoufchs*, or police-officers of the PORTE, were sent thither with orders to the Greeks to give their utmost assistance in seizing the Slavonian. The latter resided in a small village distant from the sea: led by some business, he was on his way to the harbour, when the *tscharoufchs* arrived there; he had no suspicion, but was walking along in his usual manner, armed at all points. The police-officers had taken with them twenty Greeks, and, in order to surprise the impetuous foreigner, were advancing with precipitation towards the place where he dwelt, when they met him. He was not disconcerted; and, conceiving, from the sight of this party, that he was the man on whom they had a design, he threw off his cloak, and
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with his sabre in one hand, and a pistol in the other, he fell, swearing at the same time, on the undisciplined band, and put it to the rout. Turks and Greeks, all took to their heels; it was who could get away the quickest. As for the Slavonian, satisfied with having got rid of a troublesome and dastardly gang, and with having deprived them of any wish to return to the charge, he quietly continued his way. However, he was sensible that he could no longer remain in safety in a country where he would not fail to be overwhelmed by numbers, and delivered up to the vengeance of the Turks; he quitted his wife and his dwelling, and returned to MALTA, there to resume his old profession of free-booter.

Anxious to have a near view of so paltry an armed vessel as the felucca commanded by this Slavonian, I repaired on board. I was there offered a very nice collation of dried and preserved fruits, and excellent CYPRUS wine, which had not cost much to those who piqued themselves on it. I was extremely astonished that a vessel, fit at most for a summer carrying-trade in the ARCHIPELAGO, could have arrived there from MALTA, and sailed in the open sea. Upwards of a month had elapsed since this little felucca had separated from the Commodore's ship, and it was suspected that the separation had been concerted among the people, to whom was imputed the design of appropriating to their own use a sum of four hundred thousand livres which they had on board, and which accrued from their depredations. But they were not agreed among themselves as to the means of securing the possession and the division of riches so ill acquired. The greater part of the crew mistrusted the captain, and were apprehensive that his connexions in these parts, his boldness, and his dishonesty, would induce him to carry off the sum, and thus deprive of it his companions in danger and rapine. On the other hand, they all dreaded to expose themselves, in the winter

time, to proceed to MALTA in so frail a vessel. There occurred, in my presence, a very animated discussion on the subject; the result was, that the commander would make arrangements with the French captain of the polacre on board of which I had arrived, to convey to MALTA the privateer's-men and their booty; and I was requested to apprize the latter of a project which could not but be agreeable to him.

The very next day, the time fixed for settling about the freight, the Slavonian repaired on board the polacre. He dined there, and this interview gave rise to some pleasant scenes, from the contrast afforded by the character of the two captains. The Frenchman, a mild and well-behaved man, had, besides, a considerable share of devotion; the oaths and imprecations of the captain of the privateer affected him strangely; and he was on the point of signing his name, when, having observed to the Slavonian that he ought to think of the salvation of his soul, the only answer he received to this pious remonstrance, was the brutal assertion that that was useless, because it was not possible that the Almighty could pay any attention to rascals like himself.

At last, after a long altercation, the price of the conveyance to MALTA was settled at twelve hundred dollars; the privateer's-man requested to return on board his felucca, in order, as he said, to fetch that sum, and pay it instantly; but we saw no more of him; and, after having, no doubt, deceived his people as to the pretended impossibility of coming to any agreement, he immediately set sail, and saluted us by the discharge of a swivel, on passing us at some distance.

A few days after, Captain CORAL, the commander of the expedition, came into the road of ARGENTIERA with a small frigate. He was in search of his felucca, but we were unable to tell him what was become of her

her. According to every appearance, the little treasure which she had on board had been carried off by the Slavonian, or swallowed up with him in the waves. The next day but one after the arrival of this frigate, there arose a terrible gale from the north, which forced a Turkish ship of war to take shelter in the same roadstead. The wind was so violent, that, at the very moment when this ship anchored, her masts were cut away, in order to avoid dragging her anchors, and being dashed to pieces on the coast. The first danger being over, the Turks perceiving that they were near an enemy's frigate, were preparing to jump overboard, and swim on shore. But the same panic, which had taken possession of the Turkish crew, reigned on board the Maltese privateer; and, through an inconceivable resolution, CORAL cut his cables, and fled with precipitation. Had he taken the smallest step for approaching the dismasted ship, he would have made himself master of her without experiencing the slightest resistance.

The same storm proved fatal to a French vessel, having on board part of the suite and equipage of ISMAEL, a Bey of EGYPT, who, after having driven MURAD Bey from CAIRO, had, in his turn, been dislodged from that city, and banished to SYRIA, whence he was repairing to CONSTANTINOPLE. This shipwreck was a misfortune for the Greeks of ARGENTIERA. The PORTE dispatched a cadi with two vessels, in order to ascertain the loss of the effects of ISMAEL Bey, and recover the greatest part possible. I was witness of the sort of inquest of these pretended officers of justice; there were many bastinadoes distributed, many vexations exercised, and the most valuable part of the booty remained in the hands of those who were come to save it, and transmit it to the owner.

The number of ships which repaired to the road of ARGENTIERA, from every point of the seas of the LEVANT, made the island of that name an important

important post for navigation and commerce. The French maintained a consul there, and this place had been filled by M. BREST, who had resided there for upwards of forty years. His title was changed, and his appointments were diminished; he became vice-consul, and, during the latter part of his life, he had the mortification to see himself reduced to the simple quality of agent of the general consulate of SMYRNA; a singular reward for long services. But, at a time when every thing was sacrificed to the most mistaken show, when modest merit was frequently a title to forgetfulness and neglect, when services unsupported by favour obtained no recommendation, such instances of injustice were not uncommon, especially in distant countries, whence complaints arrived but seldom, always weakened, and, as it were, grown too old from the time that was taken up in their reaching home, and from the different channels through which they were obliged to pass before they could arrive at their destination.

What sensation could, in fact, be produced, in the offices of VERSAILLES, by remonstrances couched in a simple style, supported by incontestable facts and claims, but arriving under the same cover as the accounts of a man whose power and salary had increased at the expense of him who preferred the complaint? Pages of writing, concerning objects of no importance, appeared alone worthy of occupying a few moments; and simple, but rational representations dictated by justice, the interest of commerce and navigation, thrown aside, remained unnoticed as well as unanswered.

And what was the period chosen for treating an estimable old man with odious injustice? That in which the sea-port towns of the LEVANT were inundated by a crowd of young men sent by the French government, for the purpose of there discharging important functions,

in which it is scarcely possible to effect any good, whatever merit we may suppose in those who are invested with them, if they have not a knowledge of the manners and customs, indispensable in a country where it is sometimes dangerous, and always prejudicial, to be ignorant of them. On the other hand, how could it be imagined that the consul-general at SMYRNA, at the distance of upwards of sixty leagues, and without any direct communication, could superintend the number of affairs of every kind, which daily occurred at ARGENTIERA? Accordingly those consuls, more just than the government, relied entirely on their agent for the trouble of settling them. Contenting themselves with a considerable salary, a small part of which arose from a dilatory and revolting reduction in the moderate stipend of M. BREST, they knew that no one would act better than he, and they did not interfere, in any respect, in his administration.

In fact, it would have been a difficult matter to combine with a long habit of the commercial and maritime affairs of the LEVANT, a more extensive knowledge of the tastes and customs of the different nations by which it is inhabited or visited, and a more merited consideration. Equally esteemed by the French navy, by the European merchants settled in TURKEY, and by the navigators attracted thither by trade or war, M. BREST enjoyed general esteem. The Turks regarded him as the most upright of men, and the Greeks entertained for him the highest veneration. Confidence attended him; born as it were the arbitrator of the frequent disputes which arose in seas resorted to by different nations, his decisions were followed without appeal, as without murmur; his truly patriarchal authority made him a father, a beloved ruler; and the French flag, which floated above his house, although insulated, and without means of protection, was no where more respected than at ARGENTIERA.

CHAPTER XXIV.

Village or town of Argentiera. — Houses. — Fleas. — Festival of the exaltation of the holy cross. — Inhabitants of Argentiera. — Convent of Capuchins. — Picture which was found there. — Grand Vicar. — Period of the construction of the present town of Argentiera. — Greek churches. — Vaivode. — Situation of the Greeks of Argentiera. — Their agriculture. — Barley. — Wine. — Domestic animals. — Water.

THE only inhabited place in the Island of ARGENTIERA is on the summit of a mountain of rocks, the ascent to which is by a very difficult road. It is hard to say whether this place should be called a town or a village. Were we to pay attention only to the small number, and above all to the wretched construction of the houses, it would be most assuredly no more than a bad village; but it is surrounded by high walls and secured by two gates, and this circumstance gives it some appearance of a town and even of a city.

Be this as it may, it is a poor place, the houses of which, ill-built, are still kept in worse order: several are falling into ruins, and not one, but presents, as it were, the stamp of wretchedness and the exterior of poverty. They are small, narrow, and by no means lofty; they consist only of two apartments, one of which, low and dark, has every appearance of a den, and the other is above it: the ascent to the latter is by a few steps placed on the outside, and the only door that it has, opens on the landing-place of this sort of stair-case, without a balustrade and without a balcony. Openings, which are closed by wooden shutters, supply the

place of ashes, and the ground serves as a floor or pavement. Accordingly there perhaps is no place in the world where there are so many fleas, particularly during the winter, as in these rude dwellings, especially in those which have not been occupied for some time; and the lodging which I hired was of that number: in other respects, ARGENTIERA has this in common with other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where the buildings are no better. The multitude of those insects is really extraordinary; one is covered and devoured by them; they spread themselves even over, and slip into the hair, which I had not observed elsewhere. It is asserted that they are still more numerous in the houses inhabited by nurses, because, it is said, they are attracted by the smell of the milk.

These houses, so paltry, have by way of covering a bad flat roof, consisting only of a sort of wooden hurdle, on which earth is spread and beaten. Stormy showers frequently penetrate it, and induce the necessity of loading it with fresh earth, which does not long secure the inside of the house. In lieu of exerting greater care and intelligence in the construction of these roofs, the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, a people long addicted to superstition, prefer relying on heaven for the preservation of their dwellings. On the eve of the festival of the exaltation of the holy cross, it is an ancient custom to sweep and clean nicely the flat roofs of the houses; when, towards the evening, the bells of the churches begin to ring, the inhabitants there draw large crosses; and these figures are, to their credulity, the best means of preserving the top of their habitations from being penetrated by the winter rains.

The evening of this very day which preceeds the exaltation of the holy cross, one of the greatest festivals of the Greek church, fires are kindled in the streets of the towns and villages of the ARCHIPELAGO, where the inhabitants are not restricted by the presence of their tyrants.

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They all, great and little, pass thrice over these fires, at the same time reciting prayers, by which they implore, from divine assistance, the preservation of their health during the following year, as well as plentiful vintages. But, in order that these prayers may have all the efficacy which they expect from them, they seriously assert that there must be in the fires some parts of the sesamum plant.

A single street makes the circumference of the town or village of ARGENTIERA. People who are as badly lodged as the Greeks of this island, were not likely to think of paving their street, which, in rainy weather, is a long heap of deep mud; humidity, water itself then finds its way into the rooms of the ground floor, which are almost subterraneous, and renders them habitations equally unwholesome and inconvenient.

It is within this enclosure of wretchedness that about two hundred Greek families take up their residence. There were in my time but two Frenchmen: the consul or agent, and another Provençal, who served as a pilot to ships of war of different nations, which the protection of their commerce brought into these seas. There were no other Catholics than the families of these two Frenchmen; the remainder of the inhabitants followed the religious principles of the Greek church. This small number of Latin Christians no longer required the care of several ministers. Some Capuchins, who had established themselves there formerly, had abandoned their *hospice*, built on the outside of the town. This house was in ruins, and every thing that the Capuchins had left there was become the prey of the people of the country and of strangers. I also saw there a very fine picture, which had not excited the cupidity of ignorant depredators, but which had great merit; it represented a miracle which the monks of the TRINITY, occupied, as is well known, with the redemption
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of Christian slaves in the Mahometan countries, relate to have happened in BARBARY. Some of these monks, having learned that there existed in the hands of the inhabitants of BARBARY an enormous crucifix in bronze, arising from the plunder of some Christian ship or settlement, did every thing in their power to obtain it; they succeeded in this only by promising to give a weight of silver equal to that of the cross. It is the moment when the scales are brought into the presence of the officers of justice and of an immense crowd, that the painter of this picture has chosen. The crucifix is on one of the scales; bags of silver coin, which the pious zeal of the Trinitarians had had so much difficulty to collect, are lying on the ground; one of these friars, on his knees, is beginning to empty one of them into the other scale, and scarcely are a few pieces, equivalent to the value of the copper crucifix, come out of it, than the equilibrium of the scales is established. The grateful admiration towards heaven, depicted on the countenance of the friars, the stupid and stern surprise on the faces of the natives of BARBARY, the tone of truth which reigns in a group composed of a multitude of details, together with the beauty of the colouring, announce a masterly pencil, and made this picture a valuable work. The consul assured me, that an English traveller had offered the Capuchins to give them as many sequins as it could hold, placed beside each other on the canvas of the picture; and these monks, who set so high a value on its possession as to reject such considerable offers, ended by abandoning it, and giving it up to the dust, and to the outrages of gross and ignorant people. I had no difficulty in obtaining from the consul authority to rescue this fine work from approaching annihilation, and to bring it to FRANCE. It is there in fact, but I cannot tell where; for it was taken from me some time before my arrival, without my being able to discover since what was become of it.

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The small church, or the chapel of the Capuchins, likewise served for the Catholics of ARGENTIERA; but this temple partook of the general wretchedness; the most simple decorations were there wanting, and the ornaments, as well as the linen necessary for the altar, were falling into tatters.

A secular priest, born in the Island of SCIO, and who had studied at ROME, still performed divine service in this chapel. He assumed the title of grand vicar, and pretended to be invested with all the powers of the bishops in the Islands of MILO and ARGENTIERA, which, according to him, were not in the dependency of any bishopric, and formed for him a little district, over which he exercised spiritual supremacy; and, in truth, his eminent dignity did not fatigue him much; for there no longer existed but a single Catholic in the former of those islands. All his functions were limited to saying the mass of the consul; and, by this trifling duty, he compensated for the protection which the French government granted him, as well as to the bishops and other Latin priests scattered throughout TURKEY.

The priest of ARGENTIERA was very proud of his nominal bishopric; he suffered no opportunity to escape of speaking of it, and particularly of inserting in the small number of acts which he had to write, and which he increased designedly, the formula *nullius diæcesis**, the declaration of his spiritual independence. With the exception of this little pride, which, in other countries besides the EAST, not unfrequently replaced evangelical modesty, M. MARCOPOLI, this is the name of the ecclesiastic, was certainly the best man in the world; intelligent and

* *Belonging to no diocese*: thus are called the districts which are not subject to the jurisdiction of any bishop, and where chapters or ecclesiastical dignitaries discharge episcopal functions.

anxious to acquire knowledge, he communicated with much complaisance that which he possessed respecting his own country; he was extremely useful to me during my travels. I had conceived for him much esteem and friendship, and I learnt with concern that, a short time after my departure from the LEVANT, he had sunk under a long illness.

His ordinary dress consisted of a black cassock, like that of our priests, a broad and high black cap of an equal width from one end to the other, and a pair of whiskers. He was respected by the Turks and Greeks; but for this respect he was indebted to the protection which he received from FRANCE; a protection which was then of very great weight in countries where our nation enjoyed considerable influence and many exclusive advantages.

The town of ARGENTIERA is very modern; its construction goes no farther back than 1646. A tradition, preserved among the present inhabitants, informs us that it was begun by some Greek fugitives from the Island of SIPHANTO, who kept themselves concealed, for some time, in a wood which then covered its site. These Greeks had brought with them in their flight an image of the Virgin, and they built houses in the place where the representation of the mother of God had been pleased to stop with them, and to preserve them from the attacks of their enemies.

Several Greek churches or chapels, scarcely possessing more riches than that of the catholics, are built behind the village. They all have, above their portal, little bells, which are frequently in motion. But, on a miserable and insulated land, their sound scares not the Mussulmans, and they have disdained to take away from a handful of Greeks, whose
situation

situation rendered them little worthy of attention, a privilege which they refuse with severity in almost all the parts of their empire, and which is of great value in the eyes of people, whose whole christianity consists in exterior practices.

A Greek of ARGENTIERA itself, and sometimes of a neighbouring island, goes every year to CONSTANTINOPLE, to purchase the right of oppressing his countrymen, under the title of *vaivode*. This place, which answers to that of intendant, is a post which is put up to auction, and sold to the highest bidder. The islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where the Turks do not command in person, have the same form of administration; the vaivode there collects the public revenues, imposes arbitrary fines; in a word, torments his fellow-citizens by as many exactions and acts of injustice as could be committed by the most severe and most covetous Mussulman officer. With the exception of ill usage, of excesses of an unbridled violence, in which the Turkish commandants sometimes indulge themselves, towards a people whom they consider as a horde of slaves and reprobates, the vaivodes accompany their temporary functions with so much harshness and rapine, that the Greeks have most frequently to repent being governed by a man of their own nation.

And this cruel insensibility, which suddenly converts one oppressed into a pitiless oppressor, is not peculiar to the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO; it is a vice common to all low and debased minds, which know no more of power than its abuses, and confound the duties of legitimate authority with the obligation of using extreme severity. The black slaves in the WEST INDIES had no overseers more rough and more inhuman than those of their own colour who had shared their fate, and we shall long have present in our memory the horrors, the devasta-

tion, and the pillage which have been wantonly committed by a few men of the dregs of the people, invested, through the effect of an inconceivable delirium, with a terrible power, which could scarcely be equalled by that assumed by ferocious usurpers.

The miserable state of ARGENTIERA was not, I was told, carried to the pitch in which it is at the present day. I was assured that, before the war between the Russians and the Turks, during which the former came from their northern countries by routes, the possibility of which the ignorance of the latter had not been able to discover, and established in the ARCHIPELAGO itself their station, their magazines, and their cruises, whence they threatened the capital of the Ottoman empire, this country enjoyed greater comfort. But, during this struggle between the Russians and the Turks, the defenceless islands were given up to pillage and contributions, to which places that become the theatre of war are always exposed. And what crowd of ills must overwhelm those where the barbarity of the men, who are at war, adds to the horrors of which it composes its dreadful train! Pirates, taking advantage of disorder and impunity, increased by their robberies the calamities of these countries; and ARGENTIERA, whose road could not fail to be the place of the ARCHIPELAGO the most frequented by ships of every sort, more exposed than any other island, must have been excessively impoverished.

Here was a general want of the necessary articles of life; neither corn, meat, nor vegetables were to be found. All that it was possible to procure, consisted of barley-bread and a few eggs. The whole island, which is scarcely six leagues in circuit, is formed by mountains of rocks, and almost entirely sterile. If we except a few fig-trees,
scattered

scattered among the vineyards and fields, no tree enlivens with its verdure a rugged and arid soil, formerly shaded by forests, and where, more recently, still grew in abundance the tree whose fruit furnishes the most useful, as well as the most flavoury of oils. These latter species of plantations, which constitute the wealth of a country whose climate is favourable to them, were, at ARGENTIERA, and on some neighbouring lands, the prey of flames, directed by the devastating hand of war, during the long continuance of hostilities between the Venetians and the Turks.

All the present industry of the Greeks of this island is reduced to the culture of a little cotton, some barley, and a few vines. When a person wishes to eat other bread, he is obliged to send for wheat from countries more fortunate. During the winter, boats touch here loaded with biscuit; their cargo is presently sold; for people, constantly reduced to barley-bread, find a sort of treat in a food dry and hard, but more relishing.

It is not that the bread which is made at ARGENTIERA, and in almost all the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, with barley-meal, is not good; the people of these countries scarcely eat any other. I lived on it a long time, and not only found in it no disagreeable flavour, but it appeared to me well-tasted and relishing. In all the EAST, this bread, of pure barley, is a very common aliment; the Hebrews made a great consumption of it; and there is every reason to presume, that anciently, as in our days, the culture of barley, and its use as daily food, would not have been spread so generally in countries where wheat grows in abundance, if the bread which is made from it had been reckoned a coarse and even disgusting food, like the same bread in our northern departments. On my return to my own country, I wished to compare the

barley-bread which, in years of scarcity, is sometimes made in our villages, with that which I had so frequently eaten without disgust in the LEVANT; and I found that, independently of its colour, much blacker, it was considerably heavier and really bad. Want alone can command the use of it; therefore, the barley of warm climates must yield a meal more savoury than in our countries. Perhaps too, this grain, which among us is not, commonly, destined for the subsistence of men, has not obtained the same attention as wheat in its grinding, and being made into bread; and, perhaps, better attended to, it would ultimately furnish bread, which would come near the goodness of the barley-bread of the EAST.

The wine of ARGENTIERA is not so good as that of several surrounding islands; and this defect of quality proceeds, no doubt, only from bad management, since the soil is as fit as in those other countries for the culture of the vine. I am even astonished that the inhabitants contrive to make wine; for, no sooner are the grapes ripe, than they eat them in such great quantities, that it appears likely that there would no longer be any remaining, whose juice may be expressed; and these sort of partial and anticipated vintages are also one of the causes of the mediocrity of the wine, for which are reserved none but the grapes the least ripe and of the worst appearance.

However, the Island of MILO, which is very near, furnishes the wine which is commonly drunk at ARGENTIERA; very good sheep are also thence procured. The inhabitants of ARGENTIERA possess only flocks, which are as pitiful as every thing that surrounds them. A few miserable asses, a small number of hogs, and some fowls, are the only domestic animals that are there to be seen; and if they had not the resources which the sea presents for fishing, and that very limited one of fowling,

it would be a difficult matter to live on an island which is almost in want of every thing. Water even is not here common; here are no rivers, no rivulets, nor springs; no other than cistern water is drunk. A marsh of miry water, which is at the entrance of the village towards the sea, is the only watering-place where the small number of animals that are here fed can quench their thirst; its muddy banks are constantly enlivened by wagtails; those restless birds diffuse life and gaiety in places where every thing inspires melancholy, where every thing seems ready to be annihilated under the weight of penury and oppression.

CHAPTER XXV.

Names of the Island of Argentiera.—Silver mines.—Cimolian earth.—Its properties; its use in the arts; the utility which might be derived from it for our manufactures; facility with which it might be procured; its nature.—Volcanoes.—Thermal waters.—Their properties; manner in which the Greeks make use of them; their situation.—Bluish substance which covers the surrounding rocks.—Stinking lake.—Grottoes.—Mountain.—Birds.—Kedros.—Oil of Kedros.—Different nature of the mountains.—Praise.—Excavations.—Wild artichokes.—Semena.—Petrified wood.—Lentisk.—Saffron.—Manner of selling it.—Its price.

IF the little Island of ARGENTIERA neither affords the comforts nor conveniences of life, Nature has made it an interesting place, from its situation, and the substances which it contains in its bosom, or which it produces spontaneously on its surface. The ancients named it *KIMOLOS*; they were also acquainted with it under the name of *ECHINUSSA*, *VIPER ISLAND**, on account of the great quantity of those reptiles which it fed, at a time when, little frequented by men, it was covered only by rocks, forests, or brambles. The Greeks still call it at this day *KIMOLI*. The Europeans discovered there silver mines, whence has arisen the denomination of ARGENTIERA, by which they have not since ceased to distinguish it.

* *Cimolus quæ Echinussa*.—PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xli.

Those mines are abandoned; it is even probable that they never were very productive, which may have occasioned the working of them to be renounced. It is not known at what period they were open, nor at what other they were deserted. The inhabitants have not preserved the remembrance of either, and they have taken good care not to make any attempt that might give the Turks reason to suspect the existence of a precious metal: this would have been to them a new and inexhaustible source of extortion and wretchedness. Under an odious tyranny, people do not become rich with impunity; imminent danger accompanies whatever may fix attention and excite cupidity; and they are so reduced as to consider distress a desirable blessing.

It appears that the principal mine, whence silver was drawn, is on a lofty cape, opposite to the little Island of SAN GEORGIO. The Russians, during their long stay in the ARCHIPELAGO, attempted to work them anew. I also know that M. DE LACLUE, formerly a captain in the French navy, made several trials in that way; but these attempts and these trials have demonstrated, that the quantity of the mineral was too small to cover the cost of the working, and it is undoubtedly to the same cause that we must attribute the ancient desertion of them. It might, nevertheless, be possible that, by pushing the labours to a greater depth than has been hitherto done, adventurers might meet with veins more rich and an ore more abundant, which might indemnify them for the expenses, and yield a profit; but speculations of this nature should be deferred to other times, in countries where, through the effect of a strange barbarism, national riches become the scourge and the ruin of individuals, and where the mass of earth and rocks, which cover these gifts of Nature, cannot be composed of strata too thick.

The

The sea washes the foot of this mountain, which is said to contain silver. There it is that the islanders go to supply themselves with an argillaceous substance, diluted by the waters, and which serves them in lieu of soap for washing their linen. The ancients knew it by the name of *terra Cimolia*, from that of *KIMOLOS*, which they had given to the island where it is to be found. It has been confounded with other different mineral substances. There is no work on mineralogy that does not make mention of Cimolian earth; but in all there exists, on this subject, an equal confusion of words and things. In like manner as the name of *terra figillata*, which was nothing more than a generic designation, given to various substances on which impressions, seals, &c. are applied, has been indifferently attributed to calcareous earths, to boles, and to clays; the name of *terra Cimolia* has also been extended to some species of fuller's earth, and even to boles.

I have convinced myself that the true Cimolian earth of the ancients, that which is drawn from *KIMOLI* or *ARGENTIERA*, and which is very different from all the analogous substances with which it has been confounded, is not at all known in *FRANCE*, unless, perhaps, by a few curious persons. On my return to *PARIS*, I visited the warehouses of the druggists in the *RUE DES LOMBARDS*; I there asked for Cimolian earth, and I was at one time shewn Armenian bole; at another, reddish Lemnian earth; and lastly, figillated Maltese earth. None of the traders of that rich quarter, who all probably had an idea of Cimolian earth, knew how to distinguish it; and, on seeing the specimen which I produced, they acknowledged that it was unknown to them.

Without admitting all the medicinal properties, attributed to the earth of *ARGENTIERA* by the ancients, who set a high value on it, and frequently

frequently used it in medicine*, it has some more real, which ought to have rescued it from the oblivion into which it has fallen for many ages. It is a *smectis*, a natural soap, which costs only the trouble of taking it up at the place where Nature has formed it. Dissolved in water, this substance, for a long time, maintains its saponaceous froth and bubbles, like common soap. Most of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO make use of no other substance for washing linen, and they have observed that it was better bleached when they employed sea-water for dissolving this earth, the present name of which is *pylo TSINNIAS*, that is, *TSINNIAS* clay, because the Greeks call *TSINNIAS* the place whence it is taken. It is put on board boats, which convey it to the other islands, and to different countries of the LEVANT. That which the sea-water has penetrated is taken, and formed into little oblong masses, which are suffered to dry. Experience has, undoubtedly, taught the Greeks, that the earth, thus moistened, was preferable to that which is dry and hardened, of which the same mountain is entirely composed; never do they take any above the line washed by the waves. Accordingly these sorts of cakes, formed with Cimolian earth, always contain a strong dose of marine salt, foreign to the earth, and with which the sea impregnates it.

Cimolian earth is also very fit for taking out spots of grease from woollens or silks: it is sufficient to soften a piece of it in common water, and to spread it on the place spotted; it is suffered to dry, then it is reduced to dust by rubbing it with a brush; the spot is effaced without the gloss or colour being impaired. Its effect is more certain than that of all the

* Respecting the virtues of Cimolian earth, see PLINY's Natural History, book xxxv. chap. xvii; DIOSCORIDES, book v. chap. cxxxiii; GALEN, Theophrastus a Non i epitome de curatione morborum, &c. &c.

stones for taking out spots. Several persons, among whom I have distributed the small quantity which I had brought home, have made the trial with success; but it must be observed that it absorbs none but greasy substances, and that it is useless for other spots. It also cleans extremely well the sword-belts, the shoulder-belts, and buff accoutrements of troops. The shoemakers of the LEVANT make use of it for gluing leather and skins, and its tenacity occasions it to be employed, in the same countries, as a glue fit for different uses.

But this substance might become, for our manufactures, of an utility greater and more general. PLINY mentions that the Romans used it for the scowering of woollen cloths. The *lex metella*, of which the censors C. FLAMINIUS and L. ÆMILIUS were the authors, prescribed the order in which fullers were to make use of the substances which they employ, and Cimolian earth was intended to set off the true and valuable colours, and to revive the lustre of those which the fumes of sulphur had darkened*. The testimony of the ancients and my own observations leave no doubt respecting the advantage which might be derived from the use of Cimolian earth in the fulleries, and the cleansing of wool. Means would probably be found to employ it with advantage in other arts; and every thing inclines me to think that, by introducing it into FRANCE, we should find in it other useful properties. The carriage alone would be attended with some expense; it would cost nothing to take the Cimolian earth from the foot of the mountain, where it is moistened by the sea; the vessels which frequent the LEVANT might easily ship it, to serve them as ballast; so that we should have, at a very low price, a useful and inexhaustible substance.

* *Veros autem et pretiosos colores emollit Cimolia, et quodam nitore exhibitat contristatos sulphure.*—
PLIN. Hist. Nat. lib. xxxv. cap. 17.

I have said that I considered this mineral substance, which is of a whitish gray, heavy, fat, and saponaceous, as a species of *smectis* or *smectites*, which does not appear to contain metallic particles. A learned traveller, who, like me, has examined the Cimolian earth in the Island of ARGENTIERA, affirms that this substance, very abundant, but little known, is only a slow and gradual decomposition of porphyries, occasioned by subterraneous fires. "I have brought home," says OLIVIER, "specimens of every state through which that earth passes. This observation will, no doubt, be interesting to mineralogists, and will make them acquainted with the origin of a substance till now so little known*." I confess that I am at a loss to comprehend how porphyry, on which fire makes no impression, can be decomposed by the effect of volcanoes, and reduced to a greasy and saponaceous substance. Another circumstance perplexes me: this is, that Cimolian earth is acted on by acids, which occasion it to enter into a state of fermentation; whereas these same acids produce no such effect on porphyry. These difficulties, foreseen by OLIVIER, are cleared up, no doubt, in his theory, with which I am as yet acquainted only by the slight sketch that he has presented of it in the Report which I have just quoted; and his talents and his extensive knowledge in natural history inspire too much confidence to doubt that, by destroying every objection, he has grounded his opinion on certain bases and incontestable facts.

The Island of ARGENTIERA is nothing but a group of volcanic substances. It exhibits on all sides indications of those great fires which Nature feeds in the bowels of the earth: every thing there presents the

* Report of travels, performed by order of the French government, in the *Ottoman Empire*, *Egypt*, and *Persia*, during the first six years of the Republic, read to the National Institute, by Citizen OLIVIER.—*Magasin Encyclopédique du premier Germinal*, an vii. No. 22, page 198.

image of a vast combustion; and it is probable that these subterraneous fires, whose action has shewn itself externally, and has imprinted on the soil violent commotions, which, combined with the effort of the waters, may have contributed by immense depressions to insulate it, are still burning with activity at great depths, and threaten it again perhaps with fresh convulsions.

In several places, the rocks are calcined; the productions of these volcanoes are frequently met with, and OLIVIER has there discovered pozzolana, as well as at MILO and at SANTORIN*. Hot and smoking waters still attest there the existence of a subterraneous fire in full activity: they issue from a rock near the sea, on the north-west part of the island. The heat of these waters is so powerful, that a person cannot hold his hand in them; and in an instant eggs are boiled hard. They deposit a sediment of a yellow ochre; when cooled, they assume a whitish tint, and their flavour is of an extreme tartness. I plunged into this burning and mineral spring an aërometer; it marked five degrees, and the same instrument gave but one degree, put into the water, which is considered as the best in the island, that of the consul's garden, after it had been purified by remaining in large earthen jars.

These thermal waters are reckoned, among the Greeks, to be very well calculated for curing rheumatism, sciatica, and other disorders of that nature, by sleeping in them linen cloths which are applied to the parts affected. I have been told of the wonderful effects of applications of this sort, and I have had no difficulty in believing them, as the waters of ARGENTIERA must be very active. I do not know even whether the method of partial applications which are made of them, and only on

* See the Memoir before quoted

the parts affected, be not more efficacious than total immersion or baths, as prescribed by our physicians in the thermal waters of our countries. Does not the action of the remedy, spread over the surface of the whole body, lose some of its energy with respect to the part affected; and does not its impression prevent, or at least diminish the effect expected from it for re-establishing, in one single part, the circulation of the humours, and curing local sufferings? Long experience, tradition which is as old perhaps as the times when physicians, more full of observation than learning, dictated, in ancient and brilliant GREECE, rules from which found practitioners are still afraid to deviate, have perhaps taught the modern Greeks the method of employing, on the very spot, thermal waters as a topical application rather than as a bath. It appears to me, indeed, more natural and more suitable to the species of complaints which it is meant to cure; and as it cannot be attended with any inconvenience; and as, besides, other nations practise it with success, I recommend to physicians, who disdain not to employ the curative means of which they are not the authors or the partisans, and the patients who seek relief, to adapt this procedure with our thermal waters.

Yet I shall not tell them what the Greeks assert of the spring of hot waters of ARGENTIERA: that it is sufficient to make use of reiterated applications, during a single day, to be delivered from rheumatic pains of the most inveterate nature. Whatever efficacy we may attribute to them, whatever influence we may grant to climate on disorders more frequent and more obstinate in our northern countries, so expeditious a cure is scarcely probable, when we observe that these disorders occasion, among us, the despair of physicians, and still more that of patients.

However, the Greeks, who always blend in their actions some superstitious practices, recommend to persons who take a trip to the waters, to
leave

leave there a part of the garments which covered them, a piece of shirt, of drawers, of waistcoat, &c. because, say they, the disorder remains on the very spot with these fragments of clothes.

The place where these thermal waters of ARGENTIERA are situated, affords no accommodation to those who wish to go thither. The visiter arrives there by a very difficult road; he finds no shelter against the heat of the sun; not a hut, not a single tree; scarcely is there in the neighbourhood a space sufficiently level for a few persons to be able to sit down, all this district being nothing more than the summit of a mountain, formed of prominent and pointed rocks. But a thing very remarkable, and which is interesting to mineralogy, is, that all the stones of the environs are covered with a stratum of a mineral substance of a bluish colour, which presents a very singular appearance.

Another trace of an extinguished volcano is to be remarked not far from the thermal waters, on the sea-shore, and in following the coast towards the north. This is the mouth or crater of an ancient volcano, which, for a long time, exhaled infectious vapours, whence the modern Greeks have called it *vromo limno*, that is, *stinking lake*. This gulf is, properly speaking, in our days, only a lagoon of the sea, which no longer diffuses a bad smell. Remote from every habitation and extremely solitary, wild ducks come frequently to rest themselves on its tranquil waters, and it is uncommon not to find some there during the winter.

By the side of this lake, to the north, are met with several grottoes or caverns cut in the rock, and which appear to have served as habitations. In one, there is a spring of good water, which, in this retired spot, is useless to the inhabitants of ARGENTIERA. They assert that these excavations

vations served their ancestors for melting the iron ore which they drew from the neighbouring mountains. A narrow recess of the sea permitted boats to land on this coast, and it is to be presumed that, if the roadstead of ARGENTIERA had not become the general rendezvous of all the vessels which navigate in the seas of the LEVANT, the present inhabitants would not have abandoned the west coast, where they would have found a soil less ungrateful, small coves fit for the reception of their boats, and a copious spring. But, among civilized nations, commerce is an irresistible allurements which hurries away men to places where it makes its appearance, and frequently induces them to forsake real advantages, to run after chimeras, which corrupt at the same time that they enrich.

This cove, where is situated the stinking lake of which I have just spoken, is formed to the north by a large elevated mountain, which is cleft and separated from itself, in its middle, throughout its whole height. One half no longer exists, and has been carried away or swallowed up by the waves; the part which remains presents a cut nearly perpendicular, and at the same time a little concave, entirely composed of a gray stone, calcareous, and of a consistence by no means solid. It is this softness of the stony substance of which it is formed, that has occasioned its falling away. In fact, incessantly beaten at its foot by the waves, and loaded at its summit by the weight of the lands soaked by the rains, it has been unable to resist those two powers acting in a contrary direction, and has necessarily opened and separated.

The hill, at the foot of which is the cove, is sloping and covered with a thick stratum of mould, on which grow more shrubs and plants than on every other spot in the island. In this solitude, which would not be one, if the population of the countries subject to a government
which

which is the most unfavourable to it, was not diminishing instead of increasing, I found a quantity of birds assembled, a living homage paid to the fertility of this district. I there saw a great number of thrushes of the large species, together with blackbirds, linnets, petty-chaps, partridges, a woodcock, &c. &c.

At some distance, and in the north north-east quarter of the island, facing the Island of SIPHANTO, is another district which is called *KEDROS*, because it is furnished with the species of tall junipers, which the modern Greeks call by that name*. None of them are seen in the other parts of the island, and they enliven this quarter, the approaches to which are somewhat gloomy, from the light tint of the greenish white of their leaves, and the red of their berries, resembling small cherries. These tall shrubs yield no gum at ARGENTIERA; their wood, as well as their leaves pounded, have a very strong odour. The Greeks make use of the oil which they draw from the stem and the branches, for the cure of the itch. They select the oldest wood, and that most impregnated with sap, which is then a little blackish; they cut it into small pieces, which they put into an earthen pot, with a little hole pierced in its bottom; they close and cover with paste the lid of the pot; then kindle a fire all round it, and the heat causes to trickle down, through the aperture in the bottom, the oil which issues from it, and which is received into a vessel placed underneath. This oil is thick, and yellow as saffron; it tinges with yellow the things that are rubbed with it; and the body of those who use it for curing themselves of the itch, is a long time before it is freed from this tenacious colour. It is, however, a very good remedy for that disorder.

* This is a variety of the juniper, which grows likewise in the southern countries of France. *Juniperus oxicedrus*. LINN.

It is seen that this oil is nearly the same as the *huile de cade*, which is drawn from the junipers of the south of FRANCE, and which, in our rural economy, is very commonly used for eradicating the mange of sheep and cattle. Oil of *Kedros* may acquire greater virtues through the influence of climate, and perhaps too from the manner in which it is extracted.

It is principally on the back of a lofty and steep mountain, at the foot of which is a narrow cove, that the greatest number of *Kedros* are found in the district which bears the name of those shrubs. The back of this mountain is covered with a rich and whitish earth, under which is a white and brittle rock; a multitude of pieces of lava, cinereous and brown, is scattered over the soil, and below, the beach is strewn with flints, black and burnt, some of which are of a prodigious size. The creek is formed on the right by a hill of calcareous rock, white, soft, calcined, and forming only one single mass, broken and shattered on all sides; to the left, by a mountain perpendicular on its three sides, of the same nature as the hill to the right: but, in lieu of the clefts, this is as if artificially wrought, on the naked faces, in acanthus leaves, such as are seen on the capitals of pillars. Close by the side of this latter mountain rises another, quite black and burnt, which forms a striking contrast with the whiteness of the former. These contrasts between grounds very near to each other, are to be found in several parts of the island, and it is pretty generally observed, that the mountains or hills which have more immediately experienced the action of volcanoes, are at present covered with earth; whereas those, the rock of which is white, are absolutely naked.

If, from the district of *KEDROS*, we continue to follow the coast, on the eastern shore of the island, we find a cove larger than those of which I

have just spoken; an islet, somewhat lofty, lies in the middle; the water is deep; and small vessels may anchor there: but as this place, which is named *PRASE*, is solitary, navigators are not fond of frequenting it.

On the declivity of the mountain, which forms the head of the small haven of *PRASE*, are seen some grottoes, dug in the rock. The largest has a very wide entrance; its interior is spacious, and its extremity is walled up. The Greeks are ignorant for what use these excavations have been made; they know only that the wall in the inside of the large grotto was constructed, in order to close the opening of galleries which, they say, extend to a very considerable distance under ground, and to prevent the flocks which take shelter in these caverns, from penetrating too far within them, and being there lost.

The environs of *PRASE*, on the side of *KEDROS*, furnish a great quantity of wild artichokes, which the inhabitants of *ARGENTIERA* go to gather, and eat with pleasure.

Another small harbour, fit only for the country barks, but extremely safe and quiet, is situated between *PRASE* and *SAN NICOLO*; it is called *SEMENA*. The coast there is in like manner without habitations; and to proceed thither from *ARGENTIERA* is a full hour's journey, along a road excessively bad, from the quantity of rocks and stones with which it is covered. The point which bars the entrance of this haven to the south, is crumbled away in a great measure, and it appeared to me almost entirely composed of wood petrified in masses, or irregular strata. Petrifications of this sort are to be found in several other parts of the island, sometimes in blocks, sometimes in strata, and sometimes in detached pieces, &c.

The

The shrub the most common on the surface of the Island of ARGENTIERA, is the lentisk, called by the modern Greeks *skino cocco*. No other wood is there burnt, and from its fruit is expressed an oil which is good only for burning; however, the poor make use of it in their food. In other respects, this oil, which is called *skino lado*, is clear and of a beautiful gold colour, like the best olive oil. When it is two or three years old, it is, according to the Greeks, a very good topical remedy for rheumatic pains.

Saffron also grows naturally on the mountains, and between the rocks of the island. When it is in flower, poor people disperse to gather it, and it affords a little branch of trade for this miserable country. The manner of selling it, when it is dried, is not common in markets; it is weighed, but it is a hen's egg that serves as a weight. No attention is paid to the size of the egg, provided it have nothing extraordinary as to its dimensions: neither is it a consideration whether it be fresh or stale; it is necessary only that it be not boiled. It is, however, very certain that an egg weighs more when fresh; it is also evident that its size adds to its weight. The difference between a fresh egg and another of the same size that has been laid six days, is at least seven grains, and it may amount to twelve grains between eggs of various sizes. But the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO pay no attention to these differences, and the sale of their saffron has no other regulator than the weight of eggs.

When I was travelling in this country, the weight of an egg in saffron cost twenty-eight or thirty parats. The mean weight of common eggs, which we suppose to be five days old, is about an ounce, six drachms, and fifteen grains, or one thousand and thirty-nine grains. On the other hand, the TURKEY parat was, during the same period, valued at sixteen deniers *tournois*; it therefore results that the pound of dried saffron was,

in 1778, at ARGENTIERA, and in several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, worth from about sixteen livres, seven sous, two deniers tournois, to seventeen livres, ten sous, six deniers. At the same period, the common price of the pound of saffron of GATINOIS, avoirdupois, amounted to from twenty-four to thirty livres tournois: when it was not of the first quality, it was sometimes sold for rather less; but there was almost always near twice the difference between the saffron of FRANCE and that of the LEVANT, although the latter, as is well known, is of a quality infinitely superior.

CHAPTER XXVI.

Women of Argentiera.—Calumnious stories of which they have been the subject.—Their morals.—Their dress.—Particular description of their garments.—Their occupations.—Cotton stockings and caps.—Occupations of the men.—Flocks.—The management of them.—Cheese.—Island of Polivo or Burnt Island.—Its productions.—Advantages of possessing it.

EVERY one knows that the shores on which navigators land in great numbers, are not always the seat of virtue and modesty. When to this concourse of strangers, endeavouring, by a few transitory enjoyments, to make themselves amends for the difficulties and privations of voyages, are added the corrupting gold of Commerce, and the means of which it can dispose for seduction, deviations from virtue are more frequent, and morals border more on depravity. It is possible that formerly the Island of ARGENTIERA, possessed by Europeans, who there displayed the vices of inveterate corruption, and the necessary rendezvous of several ships which established their cruising-station in the ARCHIPELAGO, and the crews of which came thither to spend the produce of their rapine, and barter it away for pleasures, which cease to have charms as soon as they are purchased; it is possible, I say, and even rather probable, that this island may have then afforded scenes of gallantry sufficiently repeated to become the picture of licentiousness. But that this miserable country, without commerce, and almost without industry, should have been metamorphosed into a temple of voluptuousness; that navigators of all nations should come thither to pay their homages to VENUS, and there deposit
their

their offerings; that travellers should there have run as many risks as *TELEMACHUS* in the Island of *CYPRUS*, and that they should even have come off with less glory than that young Greek, having no *MENTOR* to snatch them from so dangerous a place*, these are unfaithful pictures, at best fit to be introduced into a romance, since they serve only to give birth to false ideas of a country respecting which they convey images traced by exaggeration. *TOURNEFORT* had received the same impressions on the subject of *ARGENTIERA*; but he appears surprised not to find that pitiful country so corrupted as he had represented it to himself. "This island," says he, "is become quite poor, since the king no longer suffers any French privateers in the *LEVANT*. *ARGENTIERA* was their rendezvous, and they there spent, in horrible debaucheries, what they had just plundered from the Turks. The ladies took advantage of the circumstance; they neither are the most cruel, nor the most uncomely: this is the most dangerous shoal in the *ARCHIPELAGO*; but one must be very unskilful to strike on it†." It is seen clearly, from this passage in *TOURNEFORT*'s narrative, that that traveller speaks only of what he had read or heard, and not of what he himself saw on the spot: and not having had time to observe the morals of a country in which he, as it were, did no more than make his appearance, he sacrifices to his prejudices, by still throwing some disgrace on the private life of the women by whom it is inhabited.

But if such imputations appear evidently exaggerated, when we carry them back to periods already remote, they are truly calumnious when we apply them to the time present. It is an error of some modern tra-

* *Lettres Cabalises du Marquis d'ARGENS*, vol. ii. Hague edition, 1770, page 108.

† *Voyage au Levant*, 4to edition, vol. i. page 141.

vellers, prepossessed by the accounts of those who have preceded them. M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER, who has paid some attention to ARGENTIERA, has said nothing of the kind: he contents himself with speaking of the disbursements that the crews of Christian privateers, who formerly infested the ARCHIPELAGO with their robberies, came thither during the winter to make; disbursements for which they made the inhabitants pay very dear, from the vexations with which they tormented them. He also mentions a custom which these same privateer's men had established there, and of which our navigators still avail themselves at MADAGASCAR, that of solemnly marrying for the time of their stay in port; so that a new lover impatiently waited for the departure of a captain, in order to wed his wife, as soon as he should have set sail*.

It is very certain that this dissoluteness of morals, with which the women of ARGENTIERA are reproached with so much bitterness and injustice, cannot be imputed to those of our days. They are endowed with modesty and reserve, which are the ordinary appendage of the women of the EAST; and during a rather long stay which I made among them, I saw but one single instance of a glaring deviation from those virtues more rigidly observed in the LEVANT than elsewhere. An unmarried woman, who was no longer in her prime, but who had preserved some share of youth and beauty, without relations, and living alone, was rather forced than seduced by a young Frenchman; she had long opposed a warm resistance to the importunities of the most ardent passion. In the middle of the night, she heard near her bed her impetuous lover: the door had not been open; he had come down by the chimney. An attack so sudden and so unforeseen was successful, and attended with consequences too apparent. The *vaivode*, always on the watch for every thing that can

* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, folio, page 9.

increase his income, set up for the avenger of outraged morals, and imposed on this unfortunate victim of imprudent love a very heavy fine, which it was necessary to pay; nor could any entreaty obtain a mitigation of a penalty inflicted by a tyrant whom cupidity rendered inexorable.

Indeed, a punishment so severe announces not the general dissoluteness of morals, with which writers have endeavoured to tarnish the women of ARGENTIERA; and these lines which I have consecrated to their reputation, are no less the expression of a sentiment of justice than that of gratitude, for the attentions and tranquillity which I enjoyed in their country.

These women possess, in general, the advantages of shape and face; but they spoil them by the manner in which they dress themselves. It is certainly the strangest garb that can be imagined, and a woman must have many charms, for them not to disappear under garments so grotesque. The drawing which I give (*Plate VI.*) of this dress was made from a doll quite clothed and arranged in the country itself.

An Indian shawl, that is, a tissue of fine wool, and most commonly of a dark green with spots of a dull red and clouded with green, furrounds the head and forehead, and suffers nothing to be seen there but two little locks of smooth and black hair, which fall on each temple. It is a luxury not only at ARGENTIERA, but in the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO and in some other parts of the LEVANT, to add to these tufts of hair small curling feathers of a beautiful velvety and shining black, or rather of a very deep azure blue, which the males of certain species of wild ducks have on the rump, two on each side. These little feathers, a simple ornament, but which is not destitute of agreeableness,

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are carefully collected. The women place some of them under their shawl, and suffer their curling points to appear on the forehead and temples, where their metallic reflections throw a gentle and coloured lustre, which varies every moment according to the different lights under which they appear.

The hair is enveloped and braided with rose colour riband: this braid is rolled on the crown of the head, and confined with a small black riband; it is surmounted by a large streamer of red ribands. To the back of the head is fastened a long piece of silk, trimmed with a broad gold net lace, which falls and waves behind. On the neck is a collar of gold, jet, or pearls, from which hangs a cross. A broad piece of red velvet, covered with gold net lace, and bordered at top the with a sky-blue riband, or a bit of gold or silver brocade, covers the breast and the throat, above another piece of cotton. A sort of silk apron, trimmed down its middle and below with gold net lace, is fastened beneath the stomacher, and reaches no lower than the knees; a red riband, in the form of a girdle, and one end of which falls down on each side, serves to confine the handkerchief which hangs on the left. The shift, which is, for these women, the richest article of their dress, made of silk, falls in front below the sort of apron which I have just mentioned; it is trimmed with rose colour riband, on which is applied the lace or open gold net work, which constitutes all the luxury of the garments. Poor women use tinsel, and sometimes coarse lace made with cotton thread. The shift comes no lower than the knees, below which are tied the strings of the cotton drawers, which all the women wear in the EAST. But the most extraordinary part of the dress is the sleeves of the shift, enormous sleeves, confined first on the fore arm with a rose colour riband, then turned up and fastened to the shoulder in such a manner as to be raised extremely high, so that the head appears buried and concealed on each

side between the shoulders. These sleeves, open and trimmed with gold net lace, hang down in a point as low as the leg, and entirely cover the sides of the body. The same piece of velvet or brocade stuff worn on the breast is tied behind; a small silver lace cord falls on each shoulder, and three large streamers of riband are fastened across the back; that of the middle is bright blue; the other two are rose colour. Two thick pieces of cotton, in very close folds, hang down, at the same time increasing in width, the one over the other, along the back, as far as the middle of the thighs: these pieces of cotton are stiff, do not bend, and appear like little mattresses applied to the body of the person who is loaded with them. A rose colour riband, fastened to the upper piece, and tied in front underneath the apron, prevents it from rising.

It is not a merit in the women of ARGENTIERA, to have their legs slender and gracefully moulded; on the contrary, they employ no small degree of art to render them equally thick throughout all their length, and to give them the appearance of real posts. They put on several pairs of half stockings of different sizes, one over the other, in order to fill up the small of the leg and make it even with the calf. As these parts are exposed to view as high as the knees, they take pains to adorn them; they are covered with a velvet stocking, and a small silver lace-cord is fastened to it before and behind. The covering for the feet consists of a sort of flipper of silk, brocaded with gold or silver, with a heel by no means high, a sole very thin, and the point sharp and turned up.

The dress which I have just described is that of parade: the women generally wear one more plain; but which, however, is composed of several pieces, more coarse and less ornamented; so that on festivals, as on working days, they alike appear shapeless masses of linen or cloth.

The habitual occupation of these women, so singularly clothed, is to spin cotton, and to knit it into stockings and caps. At home, as well as in the ftreets, they are seen with the spindle or the knitting-needles in their hand. They make use of a spindle, which is nothing more than an iron rod turned spirally in its middle, and the top of which is bent like a hook, in order to hold the cotton. Stockings, which they manufacture with much care, are, correctly speaking, the only trade of their island. Navigators take them for their own wear, and in parcels: they are to be had at all prices, from twenty parats, or about twenty-seven sous, to four dollars, or ten or eleven livres the pair. The stockings of this latter price are very fine and excellent wear, as well as the knit caps, manufactured by the same hands; and it is, undoubtedly, to the prohibitions which clogged the trade of the LEVANT, that we must attribute the little knowledge that we had in FRANCE of these useful articles, which deserved to be introduced into the traffic that we carried on with those countries.

While the women spin and knit, the men engage in different kinds of employments. Some, proprietors of boats, navigate and trade in the ARCHIPELAGO during the summer, and return to pass the winter at home, and there enjoy in peace the fruit of their industry: others apply themselves to fishing, very few to killing game, and some to agriculture; the poorest class cut and root up the shrubs which grow on the mountains, and bring them, on the back of sorry asses, to the village, where their branches and winding roots are the only wood that is burnt for the dressing of food; lastly, others of the same indigent class undertake to tend flocks of sheep and goats; for there are not, in this island, either oxen, or cows, or any other species of cattle.

I have already observed, that agriculture was at ARGENTIERA in the most wretched condition, although the island afforded several districts

capable of yielding a rich produce; neither are the flocks very numerous. They are formed of sheep belonging to different persons: never do the animals which compose them approach the habitations; they are not at all acquainted with flocks; always straying from mountain to mountain, they are brought forth and live in the open air; some large caverns serve them as a shelter against storms, and their keepers share this shelter, as well as their wandering life.

These shepherds of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are not hirelings; they are a sort of farmers, who receive ewes and goats from the inhabitants, on condition of furnishing them with a quantity of wool and cheese proportionate to the number of the animals, and to account for the ordinary produce of the ewes; so that, at the expiration of a few years, a man finds himself the possessor of a little flock, which has constantly furnished an almost daily income, without having cost either trouble or expense. This method of breeding sheep is more advantageous to the proprietors and to the animals themselves, which are more healthy and more robust, and whose fleece is improved by this entirely agrestic life; but it cannot be adopted but in mountainous countries, where Agriculture has not extended her domain: in other places, that want might be supplied by extensive parks, enclosure in the open air, and, above all, by the proscription of low and swampy sheep-folds, such as are seen in several of our departments.

Most of the disorders by which our flocks are attacked, through the effect of humidity and corruption, are unknown in the LEVANT. Veterinary treatment, which is become among us a difficult art, because we have chosen that the diet of our animals, like our own, should deviate from the rules which Nature prescribes, would there be an art almost useless. Experience, that guide more sure than the inductions of medical theory,

theory, has made simple shepherds the physicians of their flocks, as they are their inseparable companions. They do not load themselves with drugs; Nature is at all the trouble of the preparations, and their pharmacy is scattered over the very places which they traverse. The remedies are simple, like the complaints: I have remembered one which, among the shepherds of the EAST, is reckoned very efficacious in putrid diseases in sheep: this is swallow's dung, dissolved in water, and given as a drink.

It is also on the very mountains, and in the midst of their flocks, that the shepherds make, with the milk of ewes and goats, prepared in the open air in large brass vessels, little cheeses, formed in rush moulds, and of which the Greeks, strict observers of several Lents, make a great consumption. These cheeses are very good, salted, and preserved; but fresh, they are delicious.

A few inhabitants of MILO and ARGENTIERA have also flocks on the Island of POLIVO, which the Europeans call *BURNT ISLAND*, because the Venetians, during the long wars that they had to maintain against the Turks, destroyed by fire the olive-trees with which it was covered. Flocks are the only inhabitants of this island; it nevertheless deserves to have others. In fact, the quantity of olive-trees which there subsisted, indicates the goodness of its soil; and the small number which is still cultivated on the west coast, opposite to ARGENTIERA, produces abundant crops.

POLIVO, or *BURNT ISLAND*, lies to the east of ARGENTIERA, and is separated from it only by a channel a quarter of a league wide. At the period of my travels, it belonged to different individuals of MILO and ARGENTIERA; but they were not in a condition, or rather they were
afraid

afraid to turn it to account, lest they should attract the attention and extortions of the Turks. They were endeavouring to dispose of it; and, but for the difficulties which a Frenchman then experienced in establishing himself in *TURKEY*, I would have become the purchaser. The little produce which the possessors drew from it, rendered it an acquisition by no means expensive, and such that a few acres of land could not have been obtained in *FRANCE* at the same price. The island is, nevertheless, four or five leagues in circumference: culture might there be extended so as to leave but about the fourth of the soil, which, from its nature, would remain uncultivated. This consists of hills, partly covered by rocks, between which grow various plants and shrubs. These hills, although not cultivated, would not be unproductive; flocks would there find an abundant food; lentisks and junipers would yield wood and oil. Nature has planted between the rocks bulbs of saffron, in the midst of other vegetable productions, useful, though wild. The very rocks likewise offer their tribute; in their bosom are found carnelians of several colours, but most commonly of a yellow orange colour; and agates, of a yellow and transparent gray, which may be considered as a species of sardonyx. An excavation, supported by posts, indicates ancient mineralogical labours, and it might be possible to renew them with advantage.

To the culture of various species of corn, cotton, &c. to the collection of wool, one might join the rearing of bees, which scarcely require any care in a climate in which they much delight; and it is well known that wax is, in the *LEVANT*, a very profitable article of trade. The situation of *POLIVO* at the entrance of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, in the vicinity of a great number of islands, forming a road, the common anchoring-place for vessels that navigate in these seas, would give birth to an infinite number of commercial speculations, which could not fail to be very productive.

ductive. On the coast, facing ARGENTIERIA, are two coves, into one of which ships can enter. At a trifling expence, one might build on the shore, and within reach of a spring of fresh water, a convenient habitation, whose position, though a little solitary, would be agreeable and picturesque: one might there pass, in comfort, and in pleasant and useful occupations, a quiet and happy life; and when, after long travels and persevering labours, I saw myself surrounded by all kinds of troubles and treacheries, I regretted more than once not having endeavoured to remove the obstacles which opposed the acquisition of the peaceful Island of POLIVO. In an abode neither too retired, nor too much exposed to the noisy agitations of society, I should probably have met with tranquillity and happiness, from which a fatality, by no means common, has always kept me at a distance.

CHAPTER XXVII.

General observations on the manners and customs of the Greeks of the Archipelago.—Their mode of life.—Their mind extremely inclined to superstition.—Manner in which mothers correct their children.—Method practised in the delivery of women.—Attention paid, in the Archipelago, to new-born children.—Precautions taken concerning them.—Pretended influence of sinister looks on children, men, and animals.

I HAD made of the Island of ARGENTIERA, and of the very neighbouring one of MILO, which will presently be spoken of, the spot whither I repaired after my different excursions in the ARCHIPELAGO. The number of European vessels which put in there, the residence of an agent of our nation, the tranquillity which there reigned, the greater facility of there obtaining certain information respecting countries where sincerity and truth are not prevailing virtues—every thing induced me to return frequently to one of these two islands, and to make a stay there at several periods. There it was that I penned the notes and observations which I had collected, and which have served as materials for this work: it seems natural to me to insert them here; and although they, for the most part, refer to the inhabitants of several other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, as they are common to the Islands of ARGENTIERA and MILO, they are not at all misplaced in the articles which treat of those two countries. They consist of general observations on the manners of the descendants of a great people, at this day subjugated by a barbarous nation: it is the moral history of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO; and the picture which I am going to present of them will exempt me from repetitions that would become

come unavoidable, if I wished to speak in particular of several tribes scattered over all the eminences which tower above the surface of the *ÆGEAN SEA*, and on which the men, with the exception of a few shades, have the same qualities and the same customs. The reader will find, in this same picture, what is general in those customs and those qualities; and he will have nothing more to do than to visit rapidly with me the other islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, and there to remark the particularities which distinguish their physical state and the moral character of their inhabitants.

The life of the Greeks of the *ARCHIPELAGO* is simple; luxury dares not make its appearance, because the tyrant is continually on the watch, and ready to fall on the produce of industry, as soon as it bespeaks riches somewhat considerable. The Greek gives himself up only by stealth to the speculations of commerce; and if they make any display through too great success, he trembles for his fortune, sometimes even for his life. Rural labours would destroy too much the effects of industry, a secret which he is forced to conceal with care: thence results that the fields are uncultivated, that the wretchedness of the country finds its way into the inhabited places, and that one seldom perceives there the signs of a dangerous opulence.

The Greeks of antiquity have been reproached with having a mind prone to superstition; this inclination has increased in proportion as Ignorance has shaded, with her gloomy wings, countries which the arts and sciences have not been able to secure from superstitious credulity. In the time of the Greek emperors, this weakness appeared to have attained its highest pitch; the people were given, in a surprising manner, to prestiges, enchantments, and practices the most absurd; and it may be conceived whether, in our days, when Slavery, the most powerful promoter of the
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degradation of nations, has united her sinister efforts to an ignorance ever increasing, that old disposition to errors have not struck roots more deep and more numerous. The christian religion even is become, among this people, a new source of superstitions. That religion, of celestial origin, which men, and more particularly the ambition of priests, have spoiled, consists, for a Greek, only in ceremonies, in minute observances, in a multitude of practices. To him the sublime moral of the Gospel is nothing; and provided he fast scrupulously, pronounce words which he considers as magical, and be exact in ceremonies, even foreign to those of religion, he is persuaded that all his duties are performed, and that nothing can prevent him from giving himself up to excesses against society. It is not uncommon to see Greek pirates, addicted to all sorts of robberies, fancy themselves in full enjoyment of a safe conscience, because they strictly observe Lent, and recite orisons.

Among the customs of the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, there are, no doubt, some which are derived from antiquity. The EAST is by no means the abode of frivolity, nor of a fickle and changing disposition; customs are there constantly maintained, and we love to find again, even in the most familiar details of private life, those with which we have been acquainted by the perusal of ancient works. It is, for example, still a custom of the mothers of these countries to whip, as in former times, their children with the flexible and elastic branches of the *agnus castus*.

If we examine the Greek of the ARCHIPELAGO in the most solemn periods of civil life, we see him always abandoned to the absurd caprices of ignorance, and executing the most whimsical things, with as much sincerity as seriousness. At his birth, he is surrounded by the whole train of superstition, and he remains accompanied by it during the course of

his life. The manner in which he comes into the world is too singular, for me not to make express mention of it: we have every reason to be surprised that, among the great number of travellers who have visited the LEVANT, and particularly the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, no one has known the method which is there practised in the delivery of women, a method truly curious and extraordinary, but which our women will not, undoubtedly, be tempted to adopt. I had an opportunity of being present at the delivery of a woman of these countries; and as I am the first who has spoken of it, I shall enter into a few details on a subject so interesting to the history of man.

I shall first observe, that the young woman, at whose delivery I was present, was not more than eighteen years of age: she was tall, well made, of a strong constitution, and of a beauty which the Greeks of antiquity would have envied. The forerunners of child-birth manifested themselves at supper-time: the young woman was conducted to her chamber, whither I had permission to attend her. The midwife, a woman much advanced in years, and whose knowledge and experience were highly extolled, arrived, accompanied by a female assistant, almost as old as herself, but of a countenance less singular and less strongly marked. A painter, who might have wished to represent a sibyl, would not have been able to choose a better model; every thing in it announced the appearance of a forcerefs, and her answers to the questions which I asked her might, from their obscurity, pass for so many oracles. She likewise carried a sort of tripod, the use of which I was far from conceiving: this very singular article of furniture is not of one entire piece of wood. Two pieces, rounded and somewhat convex on the outside, are united at the acute angle, and support at their junction a flat piece, fit for sitting on: the whole is enveloped and very negligently trimmed with old linen-cloths, and supported by three legs, very low, and as

rudely wrought as the rest, one of which confines the foot of stool to the angle, and the other two are placed under the two branches and towards their extremity. The first concern of the midwife was to cause the locks of the doors, boxes, trunks, and, indeed, every thing that could lock in the house, to be opened. This precaution of keeping every thing wide open, founded on a very whimsical analogy, is not, on any account, to be neglected, if it be wished that the delivery should experience no difficulties; and, through a consequence of this ridiculous prejudice, none but married women are suffered in it, virgins being absolutely banished. I was also informed, that if I wished to be present, I must determine to stay in the room till the delivery was completely terminated. This is a rule which no one can infringe. From the moment that the labour begins, those who are in the apartment can no longer leave it, nor can those who are without any longer enter it. The former incur even a sort of stain, which deprives them of all communication with other persons, till a priest, who is apprized on this subject, has given them his blessing, and freed them from the impurity which it is fancied that they have contracted.

In the mean time Nature began to act; the efforts which she excited, for hastening the birth of a new being, were increased and become more frequent; every thing announced an easy labour and a happy delivery. During the continuance of this action of the child on the mother, the latter did not remain idle; she was compelled to walk incessantly about her room: if pain, a little weakness, or faint-heartedness, made her desirous to take a moment's rest, the two old women supported her under the arms, and obliged her to walk; and, in truth, she appeared to me to have no inclination to do so. When the pains came on, they made her lean and bend herself forward on her bed, and the midwife, placed behind her, strongly pressed her sides with both her hands, which she held

held there against them till the pain was over, and that soon happened: then the walking recommenced, till a fresh pain interrupted it, and occasioned the woman to be put in a situation to experience fresh pressures from the hands of the midwife.

I am not sufficiently versed in the knowledge of the mechanism which Nature employs on this occasion, to determine, whether the method of pressing strongly the hands on the lower part of a woman's back, at the very moment of her pains, be a salutary or hurtful method; all that I can affirm is, that it is generally in use in the countries which I am describing, and in which deliveries are almost always fortunate. I shall add, that I observed from them a good effect, at least in appearance; for the pains were not long, although succeeding each other rapidly, and the young woman who experienced them did not seem much affected by them. However, having consulted on this point a physician who has acquired in our days a great name in the art of midwifery, he has disapproved of this practice, which he considers as very vicious, and I give, as a note, what he has been pleased to communicate to me on this subject*.

Could

Paris, 13th Nivôse, year ix, (2d January, 1801.)

* After having, with no less pleasure than interest, not only heard but meditated on the observations which M. SONNINI has been kind enough to communicate to me verbally and in writing, respecting the proceedings employed before and after the delivery of the Greek women, I exclaimed, Oh! a thousand times happy are the countries where all the united efforts of routine, ignorance, and fanaticism, have not been able to succeed in disappointing the wish of Nature, in the exercise of the most important function of animal economy.

“ During the labours of child-birth, the midwives,” you say, Sir, “ make the patient lean and bend herself forward at every fresh pain, while the matron, placed behind her, presses her sides, with a view of assisting the labour.”

Your natural sagacity, Sir, will see the demonstration of so vicious a practice, and the absurdity of which the lights of reason alone had made you partly conceive, without the assistance of the principles of art.

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Could any doubt arise respecting this practice, unusual among us, every one will agree without difficulty that nothing is more cruel, nor, at the same time, more contrary to the notions received, than the manner in which child-birth is terminated in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. Yet there is not, perhaps, any country on earth, where deliveries are more easy, more happy, and less attended by fatal accidents, than that in which every thing is, in a manner, resorted to for bringing about those accidents, and causing Nature to repent of the favours which she has lavished on the women, by decorating them with the brilliant forms of beauty, and granting them courage and strength to resist the violence employed towards them, at the period when the quality of mother comes to develop in their ardent soul new and precious affections.

The relative situation of the basin is such, that, when the woman is erect, the projection of the *sacrum*, or posterior part, is more elevated by three inches than the anterior part, or upper edge of the symphysis pubis. From this anatomical fact, you will judge, that the upper or large basin forms a very inclined plane, on which the full grown foetus is supported before by the straight muscles, whose fastenings, direction, and tendinous interfections, sufficiently indicate the uses for which they are intended.

If a woman in labour be made to bend forward, what is the consequence? 1. The uterus, and the foreign bodies contained in its cavity, recede more or less from the basin. 2. All the abdominal muscles being, on account of this posture, in a complete state of relaxation, cannot oppose the fall of the belly of the woman in labour. 3. The orifice of the uterus being constantly opposed to the extremity of that viscus, the more the extremity is inclined forward, the more its orifice must be inclined in the same manner backward in the bend of the *sacrum*. 4. The natural pains of child-birth, or contractions of the uterus, having no efficacy but as long as the axis of the body of the child, parallel to that of the uterus, answers to the centre of the basin, it follows that, in cases of obliquity, the pains are lost, exhaust to no purpose the strength of the woman in labour, and render the delivery more or less laborious.

I therefore conclude, from experience and observation, that of all the situations taken by women in labour, the most vicious, the most diametrically opposite to the end that is proposed, is most certainly that to which the ignorance and the routine of the Greek matrons subject the Greek women. As for the efforts which they add to the viciousness of the situation, we may consider them as fresh obstacles to the delivery; and if these manœuvres do not increase the number of victims, it is not most assuredly the fault of the art.

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But this sort of indulgence of Nature is the reward of a simple and regular life, still more than the effect of climate. A beautiful sky, an atmosphere which the severity of our hoar-frosts never condenses, which the gentle breath of spring-zephyrs incessantly warms, which salutary emanations impregnate with the principles of health and vigour, doubtless, contribute to the good fortune that the women enjoy of escaping the dangers which await them, and which are preparing for them. But in this, as on other occasions, physiologists have granted too much to the power of climate; and when we wish to explain every thing, it is certain, that the temperature of a country frequently comes very opportunely to relieve from embarrassment him who has undertaken a task so difficult to be accomplished. And, in order not to deviate from my subject, I shall ask, how we should contrive to make the influence of a climate which, it is admitted, gives to the people who inhabit it the stature and the corpulence of vigour, agree with that other influence of the same climate, by which we suppose that the fibres and the flesh of the women there become softened, to render deliveries by no means painful? Are not strength and energy of the physical constitution on the one hand, softness and relaxation on the other, opposite and contradictory qualities, when we wish to impose them on the same object?

Vigour of constitution, which affords the faculty of passing with a firm step through the rugged career of life, is likewise to be found among the nations which live under a burning sky, and in the midst of the tribes which walk on a soil of snow and ice. The inhabitants of SENEGAL and of JALOFF are perhaps the handsomest as well as the strongest of men; and the negroes of the same countries, with a skin of a brilliant jet, with firm and elastic flesh, brings her children into the world with still greater facility than the Greek woman, and, nevertheless, preserves that solidity of form, that tone of fibres, the certain marks of strength

strength and health. Whether we approach Hyperborean lands, or visit the Antarctic shores, which intrepid navigators have added to the chart of the world, we there see dispatch and ease in deliveries; and the women, like those of AFRICA, there preserve the just proportion of form.

It is not, therefore, the temperature of the atmosphere that gives to women that happy habit of body which procures easy delivery. Without disallowing that it may not be regarded in them as a secondary cause, it is an error to present it as the principal one, since, in its two extremes, it affords nearly the same results. Great heat, which, it is said, mollifies the flesh and relaxes the fibres, effects not those disagreeable changes only on the women who are not born in that country. It is on that account that the European woman, transplanted into the WEST INDIES, has soon the mortification to see her cheeks lose their colour, and her charms fade away; and that she who is there born of European parents, has the complexion of a perfect white, indeed, but which, because it is uniform, without being animated by the soft blush of the rose, bespeaks languor, flaccidity, and weakness.

A cause more certain than that of the difference of climate, has produced the disparity which is observable in the constitution of different people. A long succession of moderation and temperance transmit, from generation to generation, the precious inheritance of a vigorous constitution, and preserve to the muscles and fibres the tension necessary for the support of the fleshy parts, and the regularity of the outlines. If, in our countries, beauty has so frequently to lament the loss of its dearest advantages; if, under the most fascinating exterior, it has no longer any thing remaining but a mortifying disfiguration, it is to the irregular life, to excesses of every kind, the symptoms of which are transmitted and grow worse from age to age, that we must attribute these afflicting disorders.

orders. It is not astonishing that delicate and feeble beings, who have scarcely strength to exist, experience considerable embarrassment in procuring life to other beings, destined, for the most part, to the same languishing existence. The wish of Nature, often called in question, is more frequently eluded; women dread to become mothers, because continual dissipation stifles in their heart innate sentiments; as a mode of life, in which Nature is incessantly counteracted, has almost deprived them of the strength to become so. The art of midwifery has attained the point at which it has arrived among us, that is, an art replete with difficulties, only because our women are become knowing in the art of creating for themselves an existence, as it were, preternatural; and were it possible not to pity them, for thus sacrificing their charms and their real happiness, we should cease to remark, with so much concern, the impression of intemperance in the painful circumstance of delivery, and in the disorder which is frequently the consequence of it, a disorder which scarcely ever attacks the Greek women, whose happy constitution, strengthened by simple habits and regular manners, has need only of a little assistance at the moment of child-birth, and renders art useless.

Accordingly, the profession of man-midwife is there entirely unknown, and were any to make their appearance, they would meet with a very ungracious reception, and remain in complete inaction. In the first place, public morals have preserved in the EAST exterior austerity, which, if it do not always constitute their individual purity, shews, at least, that the habit of respecting them is a national character: men would not there be suffered to apply themselves to the practice of midwifery; and without having read HECQUET'S* book, it would there be considered as the

* HECQUET, a very pious physician, has composed a work on the indecency of men delivering women.

height of indecency, for a woman to have recourse to a man-midwife.

Besides, Nature takes on herself almost all the trouble of an operation, which, in our countries, is reckoned a delicate one; and the midwife that is called in, wedded to a vulgar routine, is frequently mistaken as to the means which she employs for assisting Nature. If any difficulty occur, the midwife has recourse to superstitious practices; to this is limited her science; the cases in which she is obliged to recur to them, fortunately, happen very seldom, and a difficult labour is there a very extraordinary event.

During the time which I passed in the chamber of the young Greek woman in labour, I put to the midwife various questions respecting her practice; I asked her, for instance, what she did in deliveries where the child did not present itself naturally? She assured me, that this hardly ever happened to her; but that then she strove to make the child take a suitable position, and that if she could not succeed in this, she had remaining a resource which, she assured me, was infallible for relieving her from embarrassment: this was to apply to the husband, who, in the opinion of the women of this country, possesses in an eminent degree the power of removing every obstacle that opposes the delivery of his wife; and this magic power consists in three taps which the man is to give with his shoe on the patient's back, at the same time pronouncing in a loud voice these words: "*It is I who have loaded thee with this burden; I now remove it.*"

At length the critical moment arrived. The young woman was made to sit on the fatal tripod: the description which I have given of this sort of seat sufficiently indicates the position of the woman; an air of can-

dour and inquietude rendered her extremely interesting, and her features, the elegant model of youth and beauty, appeared by no means affected by pain. The midwife placed herself in front of her, and a little below her, and the female assistant sat down behind her on a higher seat, and embraced her tightly with her arms round the waist.

The child presently made its appearance; and as soon as it was separated from the after-birth, the assistant, with a vigorous arm, lifted up the lying-in-woman repeatedly, and perpendicularly above the tripod, on which she suffered her to fall again with much roughness. I could not get the better of my astonishment to see this interesting woman, abandoned to a manœuvre which appeared to me equally absurd and revolting; she was thus unmercifully shaken till she was entirely delivered, and very fortunately that was ere long accomplished. This violent proceeding, in general use, is a mean which the Greek women consider indispensable for completing the delivery; and accidents are seldom the consequence of it, although it may appear likely to occasion numerous ones. “Violent and repeated joltings,” says SACOMBE, in a letter to me on this subject, “cannot but inflame parts already bruised and fatigued by the passage of the child, and produce descents, or, at least, relaxations of the uterus and vagina, uterine hæmorrhages, syncope, and convulsive attacks. If physical constitution preserve the Greek women from the fatal consequences of this bad practice, we must congratulate them on being born under a sky so favoured by Nature.”

Whatever may be the solidity of the motives of the censure which sound physicians pronounce against so rough a method of hastening the delivery of a woman, it would be difficult to succeed in causing it to be

* Letter from SACOMBE to SONNINI, dated PARIS, 13 Nivose, year ix. (2d January, 1801.)

abandoned in a country where experience has shewn, that it is not attended with unhappy consequences. I saw, with surprise, that the lying-in woman herself did not complain of it; and that, after a trial in appearance so cruel, she went and placed herself, of her own accord, in a bed, without appearing either too much weakened, or too much oppressed by fatigue. A few moments of repose restored her to a state truly unexpected; the colour of her face had a tint less lively, but it was still rosy: she received, without constraint, a crowd of congratulations, and replied to them as if she had been in the most tranquil situation.

I wished to ascertain the treatment to which the Greek women are subjected after their lying-in; and of this it consists. Immediately after the delivery, the woman is surrounded by a broad linen roller, from the bosom to the loins, and it is drawn very tight. Here, European practice exclaims anew to reprobate this bandage. "All mechanical compression on the belly of a woman, newly brought to bed, is very dangerous, from the disposition of the abdominal cavity and an approaching inflammation. The weight of the child, during nine months of pregnancy, the successive contractions of the uterus, or the violent pains of child-birth, irritate that viscus and inflame it; all compression must, therefore, be fatal to the woman brought to bed*." A learned theory has, doubtless, revealed the inconveniences of this method; but these are no more than chimeras to the Greek women, who maintain, with as much impunity, the compression of the roller with which they encompass them, as they brave the dangers of the joltings of their delivery. They, on the contrary, find in it an advantage which is connected with the beautiful preservation of their form, and which a multitude of women, of other countries, might envy them: it is to

* Letter from SACOMBE to SONNINI.

avoid an excessive and habitual swelling of the belly, or, what is still more disagreeable, the numerous folds and deep wrinkles with which the skin is furrowed.

On the first day, the midwife dresses the lying-in woman with dry rose-leaves, boiled in wine and honey. After several lotions of this mixture, rose-leaves are applied till the next morning. The second day, and the following days, she contents herself with simply fomenting her patient with cotton steeped in warm wine, and then applying alternately powder of cinnamon, cloves, nutmegs, or cumin; that is to say, that only one of these aromatic powders is employed at a time, and it is changed at each dressing.

In lieu of wine, which is made use of only for delicate women, the midwives commonly employ brandy, which renders the dressing more smarting and more violent. Whatever may be the state of the lying-in woman, whether her cure outstrip the common term, or whether it experience delays, the same dressing is continued for eight days, morning and evening. It is curious to remark, that at each of these dressings, the midwife gets on the bed of the lying-in woman, by the side opposite to the bolster, extends her legs between those of her patient, takes hold of both her hands, and with one foot, which she applies very exactly to the parts which have suffered, gives her three strong shakes, at the same time pressing her rudely with her foot.

On the eighth day, in the evening, an egg is boiled hard, and stripped of its shell; it is then powdered with some of the aromatics before mentioned, and confined, with bandages, to the part which the midwife has pressed with her foot, and there it is left for two or three hours. It is to this operation, the object of which, according to what was gravely related

lated to me by the midwife, is to attract the cold which the lying-in woman might have caught; it is to this operation, I say, that the care after the lying-in is confined, and the midwife is dismissed.

This treatment is almost as harsh as the mode of delivery; it occasions acute pains, especially when brandy is made use of for the dressings. But it might be mitigated by retrenching useless things, such as kicks, and be corrected, in short, in such a manner as to render it more supportable, without depriving it of its advantages; for it has incontestable ones, from its property of strengthening and closing parts which their own extension, or the manœuvres of the midwife, have fatigued or bruised; its effect is equally sure and quick, and it surpasses what might be thought likely to be expected from it, and what I can say.

The linen which has served for the lying-in must not be washed in seawater, although the islanders of the ARCHIPELAGO scarcely employ any other for their washing: they are persuaded that, if they did not change their custom on this occasion, the lying-in woman would infallibly die. Neither must she suffer herself to be seen by any star; and if she go out, as is common enough, four or five days after the delivery, that is, before the treatment is terminated, she takes care to return home, and shut herself up in her chamber at sun-set, and neither to open, under any pretext, door nor window, for fear a star should surprise her, and, according to the common prejudice, cause the death of the mother and the child.

The first time that a woman quits her bed after her lying-in, she must, before she sets her feet on the floor, place them on a piece of iron, in order, it is said, that she may become strong and sound like that metal. Nor can she in like manner enter into any house, without throwing on the threshold

threshold of the door a key, or any other bit of iron, on which she cannot dispense with treading, if she wish to avoid introducing with her the fatal influences with which she is supposed to be surrounded.

The care which is lavished, in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, on new-born infants, is, like those which the mothers receive, a medley of useful practices and absurd conceptions of superstitious Ignorance, a tyrannical divinity, of whom modern GREECE is become the frightful domain, and who presides at the birth of its inhabitants, accompanies them during the course of their life, and does not even abandon them on the other side of the grave.

As soon as the child is born, it is washed with lukewarm water; it is then covered, from the feet to the neck, with a coat of salt, which is considered as a sure preservative against worms and other disorders of the skin. After being wrapped up in swaddling clothes, it is put to bed, and then a loaf and a pestle, or any other piece of fashioned wood, is placed at its sides: the bread is to prevent the child from suffering from hunger as long as it lives, and the effect of the pestle is to render it as quiet as a log of wood. In other countries of the EAST, the mother takes her new-born child, and the midwife a brass mortar, with which she strikes three blows pretty near to the child's ear, in order, it is said, to open the organ of hearing, and prevent deafness.

Whenever a child is laid down, the persons who are in the room are obliged to stay there till it is arranged in its bed, and no other can enter during the time that this operation lasts. The importance which is annexed to the non-infringement of these precautions, proves that they are of superior interest in the mind of the Greeks; they are, in fact, persuaded, that the greatest inconveniences would thence result, if people took

took the liberty of transgressing them. These are not the only indifferent actions which are reckoned to have fatal effects on children; for example, neither fire nor light must be taken from a house where there is a new-born infant, if one wishes not to expose it to vent cries during the whole night.

But the infant when it is swaddled, is principally considered as likely to produce dangers the most pressing, if those about it neglect to avoid every thing that they fancy might be prejudicial to it. Movements too much multiplied round its bed, indiscreet words, looks even, are so many pernicious actions: accordingly every one remains motionless, and preserves a religious silence. I happened one day, on seeing a child swaddled, to say: "*There's a pretty little infant.*" The midwife, occupied with this business, turned briskly towards me, at the same time exclaiming: "*Garlic in thy eyes!*" She then spat, with the same vivacity, and repeatedly, in the child's face, which very happily broke the charm, or the bad influence of words extremely innocent, and which I might think likely to be agreeable to the mother.

However, this custom of spitting in the space, for the purpose of preventing the effect of fascinations, is very ancient; and, in times very remote, as at present, nothing was more dreaded for children than *the influence of a sinister look*, which, in the idea of the Greeks, signifies jealousy and envy: their ancestors were imbued with the same prejudices. The superstition of the women of Asiatic GREECE, with respect to little children, in the age of THEODOSIUS the Great, and of ARCADIOUS his son, could not be equalled. ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOME complained of it loudly: "No sooner are children born," says he, "than the women light lamps, and give them the name of people who have lived a long time, in order to procure them a long life. They place in their hands

sisra

“fifra and snappers, and threads of scarlet, in order to put them in
 “greater safety. The women, the nurses, and sometimes the servant-
 “maids, go and dip their finger in a sort of mud which is at the
 “bottom of the baths, and afterwards imprint the same finger on the
 “child’s forehead; and when they are questioned as to the purpose of
 “this mud—It is, say they, to avert sinister looks, envy, and jealousy.
 “There were some who wrote on the hand of children the names of
 “floods and rivers; others made use of ashes, foot, and salt, and all this
 “in order to avert sinister looks, that is, envy and jealousy*.”

Among the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, garlic is a wonderful antidote against malicious looks; some is suspended at the entrance of the houses and chambers, and it is worn as an amulet. In order to preserve children from this kind of witchcraft, there are also fastened before them three little pieces of charcoal and three grains of salt, sewed together in a little linen bag; and I remember that I had a very serious quarrel with a woman of this country, for having opened one of these amulets hung to the neck of her child, in order to see what it contained, and, above all, for having endeavoured to demonstrate to her the ridiculousness of these vain practices of superstition.

It is not only on children that the influence of sinister looks are reckoned to be hurtful; men grown are equally exposed to it, and the Mahometans and Greeks partake, in this respect, of the same opinions. A Turk, who had a great regard for me, and who dreaded, on my account, the bad effects of the glances of envy, advised me to wear con-

* *Mémoires de l’Académie des Belles Lettres*, vol. xiii. page 484, year 1737: *des mœurs et des usages du siècle de Théodose le Grand*, par Dom. BERNARD DE MONTFAUCON.

stantly a pod of garlic on my breast; and, seeing that I did not appear to adopt this preservative with much eagerness, turned towards a Greek priest who was at his side, and said to him with confidence:—" *These Franks are great blockheads, since this one, who, among them, is reckoned to be intelligent, knows nothing of what may be useful to him.*"

Flocks have also to fear, in these same countries, the maliciousness of looks: this is, however, an ancient prejudice, which still subsists in the greater part of our country-places. Superstitious ideas resemble each other in all times, in all countries, because they proceed from ignorance, their common source; and they will subsist as long as that my source shall not be dried up. This is to announce, that it will last as long as the world endures; for, in spite of the dreams of pretended philosophers, who would wish that every class of society should attain their knowledge, and their lofty and chimerical conceptions, there will always remain, very fortunately, a laborious and simple portion tainted, if you will, with chimerical opinions, but infinitely less dangerous and more useful than certain mountebanks of philosophy, whose precepts, could they be followed, would rather effect the dissolution than the establishment of human societies.

Ancient authors often speak of this sort of fatal malignity, which is shot from the sinister eye of the envious; the poets frequently recall to mind its disastrous effects among flocks*. In their time, a disease was occasioned among cattle by malevolent looks; in our days too, in several districts of our northern countries, the extraordinary diseases of cattle are

* THEOCRITUS, OVID, &c. VIRGIL makes a herdsman say:

" *Nescio quis teneros oculo mihi fascinat agnos.*"

attributed to *a fate*; and quacks know how to avail themselves of this credulity, in order to make people believe that they have the power of breaking the charm by magic operations. But what is no less deplorable, in regard to the weakness of the human mind, is, that grave authors have seriously attempted to explain the causes of these chimerical fascinations*.

To these absurd precautions for preserving little children, the Greek women add several others, which do not appear always conformable to the rules of a salutary regimen. The means which these women employ for hindering children from venting cries are rather singular. The mother chews cumin, and then blows it strongly into the mouth and ears of her child. Independently of cumin, the effect of which it is not easy to determine in such a case, the violent puffs impelled into the ears must astonish the child, and cause it to be silent, at least for some time.

In order to excite children to sleep, they are made to swallow powdered nutmeg in milk; but the remedy which is the most commonly used in their illnesses, the most excellent panacea, is VENICE treacle. On the smallest pain which they appear to feel, if they cry, if they sleep little, or if their appetite fail, in a word, in all their indispositions, of whatever nature they may be, recourse is had to treacle, as a sovereign and universal remedy. Scarcely a day passes without a little child swallowing some of this drug, or at least having a plaster of it on the navel; so that it may be asserted that, in the ARCHIPELAGO, a child consumes more of this treacle, during its first two years, than the man of our countries,

* PORTA. *Magia Naturalis*, &c. &c.

the greatest admirer of this composition, during his whole life. The poor, for whom this treacle is too costly a remedy, supply its place by cumin seed, the plant of which is very common in the East, and which they reduce to a paste, in order to make their young children swallow it in lieu of the treacle.

This excessive use of heating drugs is, no doubt, attended with inconveniences; but there are to be found in that country stout men, and women of perfectly good constitutions, and this is a prejudice in its favour: while among us, where knowledge abounds, but where, not unfrequently, the lessons of experience are sacrificed to the conceptions of a brilliant theory, and disdainfully metamorphosed into traditions of routine, the cooling diet which relaxes and enervates, has prevailed in the opulent class, that is to say, in that which narrows the most the limits of their life, by making the greatest efforts for enlarging them. We have before us the picture of the beings whom it produces, or rather whom it has devoted to languor and suffering.

In order to avoid chaps and excoriations which greatly incommode children in all parts of the body that form folds moistened by sweat or urine, the Greek women wash them with warm wine, in which they infuse myrtle-leaves, dried and reduced to powder. These lotions are repeated every other day, with considerable success; for one never sees a child whose skin is marked by the slightest excoriation.

These pains, lavished with so much attention on new-born infants, the sacred pledges of maternal affection, which never errs so far as to intrust to a mercenary bosom the sacred obligation of suckling its offspring during a whole year, do not extend to the precautions prescribed by religion.

ligion. The Greeks are not in such a hurry as the Catholics to cause baptism to be administered to their children. This delay is common enough in the class of the poor, because such must wait till they have saved up the money necessary for the payment of the papas, whose zeal does not go so far as to discharge their functions gratuitously. But as children are commonly distinguished only by the name which they receive in baptism, the Greeks have agreed to designate that which waits for the sacrament, by the generic denomination of *drako*, dragon, probably because at that time it has some conformity to SATAN, the dragon of hell.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

The age of puberty in the Archipelago.—Periodical evacuation of the women of those islands.—Singular law of the Jews on this subject.—Character of the Greek women.—Means which they employ to learn whom fate has destined for their husband.—Festival of St. John.—Different resins which the women keep incessantly in their mouth.—Paint which they use.—Pretended preservative against being tanned by the sun.

UNDER the happy climate of GREECE, the body sooner acquires its full growth than in our northern countries; there the organs, as well as all the physical faculties, are developed with less slowness; there the human species, in some measure more forward, seem to outstrip the period of its enjoyments, and hastens to display the elegant forms of beauty that Nature has lavished on a land which she had fashioned to be the abode of felicity, and which the most disgusting tyranny, the dreadful scourge of societies, has transformed into places of wretchedness and desolation. The men, like the women, arrive sooner at that age, when the agitation and the disorder of the senses give birth to a new sense, in which man seems only to receive his existence, in which every thing becomes animated and embellished, in which every thing appears around him to burn with the same flame by which he is deliciously consumed.

It is not uncommon, in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, to see girls marriageable at ten years old; and, when they have attained the age of fifteen or sixteen, they have scarcely any thing more to acquire in point of
 shape,

shape, strength, and all the attributes of the most beautiful physical constitution. It is well known that the periodical evacuation, peculiar to women, diminishes in quantity in proportion to the heat and humidity of the climate. More copious in EUROPE, it is less so in the EAST; it is still less in EGYPT and BARBARY; very trifling in the interior of AFRICA, and almost null in the countries of AMERICA bordering on the equator. Philosophers have carried observation so far as to calculate the quantity of this evacuation; and it is from the result of their researches that I have composed the account of the progressive diminution in the different parts of the globe. But the temperature of the eastern islands of the MEDITERRANEAN must have experienced some change since the age of HIPPOCRATES, or else the human species must have undergone some alteration, since the weight of nine *kemina*, equivalent to nine ounces, at which that great physician had estimated the quantity of the periodical discharge of the women of the Isle of Cos, his country, is at present too much for the women of the same countries, as I have convinced myself. There is no one whose evacuation even comes near the weight fixed by HIPPOCRATES: among the greater part, it never exceeds three ounces, and with several it is so trifling, that it is almost reduced to nothing.

Observations of this kind are not frivolous, as some persons might imagine. They are important traits of our own history, and it is only by collecting them that man will succeed in knowing himself: a knowledge which, notwithstanding the number of writings that we have on this subject, is not yet much advanced, because we have, in reality, written more than we have observed. But these materials, of which the annals of the human species are composed, are not easy to present in a work of which it is not wished to make a book of anatomy. A sort of delicacy in our language rejects expressions which art has consecrated; then we
must

must employ phrases in lieu of words, and intimate rather than express our meaning in a clear and precise manner. A zealous friend as I am of Nature, I am not less so of propriety, and I shall speak of the nice, yet interesting observations, to which I was impelled by a love of science, but with that reserve of style, that circumspection in the images, in short, those delicate precautions, which paint without dazzling, and constitute the decency of a writer.

The legislator of the Hebrews had pronounced sentence of death against husbands whose petulance did not stop at certain periods*. MOSES, therefore, must have suspected consequences extremely fatal, and we must have a curiosity to be acquainted with them. Dissertations, as well as conjectures, have been accumulated for the purpose of endeavouring to discover the motive of a law so severe. Physicians have seen, in an action which involved the penalty of death, the source of a disease whose irruption into EUROPE some writer has, methinks, improperly thought of fixing at the moment of the discovery of AMERICA†. They have called in to the help of their hypothesis the heat of climate, as being likely to give greater malignity to that disease, while experience has informed us that it was, on the contrary, much less violent and less difficult to be cured in hot countries. Others have asserted that, among a people where legislation tended not only to favour, but even to excite the increase of population, it was natural to prohibit acts which, not contributing to it effectually, on that account even became contrary to it. But, admitting that this was no more than a vain appeal

* *Qui coierit cum muliere in fluxu menstruo, et revelaverit turpitudinem ejus, ipsaque aperuerit fontem sanguinis sui, interficientur ambo de medio populi sui.* LEVIT. cap. xx. v. 18.

† *Traité des maladies vénériennes, par ASTRUC, liv. i. chap. ii.*

to sterility, which is by no means certain, it can hardly be supposed that these acts would have been considered as a crime which deserved the most rigorous punishment, since the same laws did not, during the pregnancy of women, prohibit a work of sterility well proved.

A celebrated man of learning, by his inquiries into the manners and customs of the Israelites, M. MICHAËLIS, had engaged the travellers, whom the King of DENMARK sent into several countries of the EAST, to direct their observations towards a point on which depended the understanding and explanation of a law very singular, but at the same time excessively rigid*. The sciences had to regret the intelligent and courageous men, charged with the honourable mission of going to acquire, at a distance, information and knowledge, treasures over which humanity has not to mourn, and from which honour and probity avert not their looks. My observations will not, undoubtedly, be able to make up for those which we had a right to expect from this learned assemblage; but I have thought that their result might afford some interest, from the elucidations which they contain, on a subject, which has, as yet, only given room to conjectures.

I have neglected no opportunity of gathering precise information, whether in EGYPT, where it was difficult to obtain any, and sometimes dangerous to look for it, or in GREECE, where the same difficulties do not exist. It is very certain that, in those countries of the EAST, the action which the legislator of the Jews repressed with so much severity, is not reckoned to be attended with fatal consequences, nor to occasion the slightest inconvenience, although it is not there uncommon: the men of those cli-

* *Les Voyageurs sçavans et curieux, ou Tablettes instructives et Guide de ceux que sa Majesté Danoise a envoyés en Arabie et autres pays voisins; par M. MICHAËLIS. London, 1768, question 10.*

mates even find in it some attractions, for reasons which are known to natural philosophers, and which I shall dispense with giving. Nay, we say more, this is that the Orientals do not suspect that any thing dangerous or inconvenient can thence result. Their careful cleanliness, their frequent ablutions were probably sufficient for securing them from any inconvenience in this respect. The Jews, on the contrary, the dirtiest people on earth, subject to the leprosy, and eaten up by all kinds of cutaneous disorders, apparently imbibed from these very excesses fresh ferments of acrimony, and a new tendency to complaints which the numerous precautions, prescribed by religion, had not succeeded in extirpating, and of which, in our days, they still preserve the disgusting impression. The severity of these precautions, which fill the pages of the religious code of the Israelites, is the only motive that we can reasonably assign for the frightful rigour of a law, the dispositions of which had no other object than to intimidate an ignorant and rude nation, since they could not reach infractions buried in darkness and mystery.

It is not astonishing that women, whom the nature of the climate causes to arrive sooner at a marriageable state, should have moral dispositions which agree with this physical precocity. The vivacity, the transport even of feeling, accompany this forward adolescence of the senses. That devouring fire which endeavours to communicate itself externally, is very active among the Greek females; they are very susceptible of the impressions of love; tender and passionate, the object beloved is every thing in their eyes; to preserve it, no sacrifice is painful to them, and they are, in this way, real heroines. What a charming country is that where the mildness of the climate and the dress of the earth are in delightful harmony with that beauty, which love animates with its fascinating features,

features, tenderness with its sweetest effusions, and a generous and entire devotion with the flights of energy and courage!

But we should be mistaken if we thought that the disorder of the senses accompanied that energy, that sort of delirium of sensibility. These women, so tender and so impassioned, have, at the same time, no small share of reserve: while warm and profound affections torment and agitate their soul, that internal trouble is not communicated externally; their deportment preserves the appearance of calmness and gravity; scrupulous decency ceases not to guide their actions; and, proud of being loved, because they are themselves consumed by an ardent flame, it is in a tête-à-tête only that they give themselves up to the torrent of their transports, which are so much the more impetuous as they have been longer checked. There it is that their exquisite sensibility is surrounded by all its charms, and that the delicate and sensible man can meet with the celestial happiness of seeing lavished on himself the expressions and all the marks of sentiments so delightful, in a word, of being loved as he has scarcely the hope to be elsewhere.

No less simple in their tastes than warm in their affections, the Greek females have not precise manners, and the studied affectation of coquetry; characteristic signs of a haughty pretension exacting homage, which ceases to be sweet as soon as it ceases to be free, as if every species of tyranny was not the grave of sentiment: a resource unskilful and unworthy of beauty, because it stifles tenderness, which can alone constitute its happiness, and produces only gallantry at which delicate souls are scared. It is, in fact, no longer any thing but the mechanism of love; it is no longer any thing but barren favours, which, like a charming shrub that had been stripped of its vernal flowers and foliage, lose their sweetest charms, and have

then no attractions but for the impetuous tumult of the senses or the habit of depravity.

Women such as I have just described them, who know how to walk with so much grace by the bright light of the torch of Love, also advance with dignity to the altar of Hymen. The knots which they there tie with frankness, are never loosened; and in those sacred engagements, which they consider as inviolable, they display the same energy of sentiment, the same fires of an inflamed soul, the same devotedness of which the husband, like the lover, is the sole object, and which scatter the roses of Love in the temple of Hymen.

A rule common to all the nations of the East, prescribes that the women should never present themselves in the porch of that august temple, but decorated with the qualities to which the men of those countries, more jealous than elsewhere of such a kind of priority, attach so great a value, that it is a public dishonour in the eyes of all, and a crime with some, for women who should not there afford unequivocal proofs of the most scrupulous fidelity, in preserving a treasure of which the vanity of men constitutes nearly all the value. However rigorous may be this obligation, more strictly followed by Mahometan women, because more restrained and closely watched, they have scarcely an opportunity of infringing it, the Greek females, whose youth is not more confined than that of European girls, do not always perform it with the same exactness; but they employ a few stratagems for preserving at least the appearances of it, and they exert so much address in this little fraud, that every one is deceived by it, and the union of the married couple is not thereby disturbed.

It is not very common, however, for those resources employed for disguising the wanderings of love, to become necessary. The Greek girls do not easily allow themselves to be robbed of a treasure which they are to bring as a marriage-portion; their resistance in this respect is almost always invincible, and affords a rather singular contrast to the circumspect facility which they grant to favoured love of gathering a few scattered and burning flowers. It is still more uncommon for amorous sacrifices to leave behind them apparent traces; and when tender sentiments lead to tender errors, simple and ingenious precautions which are not even unknown to women, prevent all accident, without being prejudicial to an entire sacrifice to enjoyment: artifices which, as well as the lessons, or to speak more correctly, the thefts on love, taught by SAPPHO, and which her descendants have not forgotten, may perhaps be dated from antiquity; they have fortunately escaped the industrious corruption of our morals, and I shall take good care not to reveal them.

Hearts disposed to sentiment must ardently wish to meet with men worthy of their tenderness, and who answer to the want which they have of loving. The girls of the ARCHIPELAGO employ, with much ingenuity, various means for ascertaining whether the object beloved will become their husband, or for knowing him whom Hymen intends for them. ST. JOHN is to the girls of these countries, what ST. NICHOLAS is to those of my country, who address to him their prayers and their vows, in order to obtain a speedy change of condition. The eve of the festival of the saint, the Greek girls assemble in several parties, and they there occupy themselves solely on the interesting subject which calls them together. They send for water from a well or cistern; the person who has charge of it must not utter a single word, under any pretext whatever: this water is, for that reason, called *secret water*. They fill with it a large jar, in which every one of them puts an apple; the jar, whose lid must lock, is then

then shut; it is placed on the flat roof of a house or in any other elevated situation, and there left, during the whole night, in the open air. The next day, that is, on the very day of the festival of St. JOHN, they assemble again after church, and no one comes too late. They address a few prayers to St. JOHN, which are, in reality, only invocations to love; the jar full of war is again brought with religious precaution; it is opened, and every girl draws up *secret water*, in a small vessel, with her apple, which she has taken care to notice: she makes over each of them three signs of the cross, at the same time saying: "*Great St. JOHN, ordain that, if I am to marry N...., this vessel may turn to the right; and if he is not to become my husband, the vessel may turn to the left.*" She who has pronounced this prayer, joins her hands, at the same time holding her thumbs raised and spread the one from the other; one of her female companions places herself before her and does the same; on these four thumbs, thus arranged, is then placed the vessel, which never fails, it is said, to turn of itself to the right or left, and thus to point out the husband that is to be united to her who is expecting with inquietude the answer of this singular oracle, which each girl consults in her turn, and in the same manner. Several persons of the gravest cast have assured me, that they had seen the vessel turn; and it would be in vain to attempt to persuade the Greeks that St. JOHN has no share in the effect, quite natural, of the want of solidity and mobility of a support, some parts of which, by swerving from the others, impress on the vessel a slight motion, which, in eyes already prejudiced, may appear as a commencement of rotation on its base.

A restless curiosity does not always stop at this first trial, and these females endeavour to look, in another manner, into a futurity too slow in making its appearance. This same day, the festival of St. JOHN, some young Greek girls add a new mean to that of the turning vessel: they

wash themselves with *secret water* in which the apples have been bathed; they then go into the street, and the first name which they hear pronounced, is that of the husband whom fate intends for them.

While the girls are giving themselves up to occupations dear to their heart, and calculated for allaying a natural impatience, the women think of the cares which custom prescribes to mothers: a part of ST. JOHN'S day is employed in pounding and putting by salt, which is to serve for covering their new-born children. All, women and girls, besides the apples which the latter plunge into the *secret water*, put, on the eve of the festival, one into a jar full of water, and there leave it till noon the next day. This apple, thus steeped, becomes a gift precious to love or friendship; the women present it to the person for whom they have the most affection next to their husband; and the young Greeks leave nothing undone to obtain the apple, a pledge of sentiments of preference, and a happy presage of the gifts of love.

The festival of ST. JOHN is, in most civilized countries, a remarkable day, independently of the solemnity attached to it by religion. It happens in the summer solstice, a period always accompanied by considerable changes in the atmosphere, and these variations are sufficiently marked to strike the vulgar, and make them attribute to the saint that which is no more than the natural effect of the succession of the seasons. In my country, the ci-devant LORRAINE, ST. JOHN rules the cutting of hay; whether or not it have attained a state of maturity, the scythe lays it low the day after the festival. In the LEVANT, the plague is to disappear on this very day; and the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO are persuaded, that, by means of certain abstinences, which are connected more with superstition than with religious ideas, ST. JOHN will preserve them from fever during the whole year. In the course of the day of this festival, they

they eat no sort of meat or fish; they even deprive themselves of bread, and they take nothing but herbs and some fruit: an austere abstinence, which is repeated from generation to generation, although experience has shewn that it did not attain its object.

In the ARCHIPELAGO, as in a great part of the EAST, the women make a great use of mastic, a resin which exudes from the lentisk cultivated in the Isle of SCIO; they are chewing it incessantly, and they find in it the property of preserving the teeth and of rendering the breath sweet. But as all the women of the ARCHIPELAGO, where wretchedness is greater, are not always in a situation to procure SCIO mastic, and as they are not, on that account, the less in the habit of holding continually something in their mouth, they make use of another species of resin, produced by a plant which grows naturally on the soil of MILO and of ARGENTIERA, and probably on other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. This plant, which is also very abundant in CANDIA, where it is called *ardactila*, and where the women likewise chew resin, is the *attractilis gummiifera* of LINNÆUS. The Greeks of MILO and ARGENTIERA give it the name of *anganthia tsi mastikas*, that is, *prickles of mastic*, because the plant is beset with prickles, and because they call *mastic* the resin which exudes from it, although it has scarcely any other affinity to the true mastic, the resin of the lentisk, than from the custom of being both bruised between the teeth. It comes in like manner in white or yellowish drops round the plant; it is gathered in the months of July and August, and it is difficult to be detached, on account of the great number of thorns which guard it, and to which it adheres. The flowers of this *attractilis* do not appear till October; the seeds, when they are ripe, are detached in flight and, as it were, winged filaments, and become the sport of the winds. The Greeks call these sorts of little wandering stars, which

the agitation of the air sometimes brings into the houses, *molyftrès*, which signifies informers, spies.

Although the greater number of the Greek women have no need to borrow any thing from art, in order to give their complexion that colour and bloom which they receive from nature, yet they frequently endeavour to give it more lustre and vivacity. This inquietude, which occasions beauty never to be satisfied with itself, is therefore common to all countries! But in this, at least, pernicious drugs alter not the colour of a beautiful carnation, and sharp and caustic juices dry not the skin; the flight artifices which an ardent and restless wish, rather than a movement of coquetry employs, are simple, like Nature, which affords its elements.

Anciently the Greek women made use of red and white. It is uncommon for the Greek females of our time, those at least who inhabit the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, to put on white; and when they use it, they employ for it no other substance than the species of very small univalve and white shells, of the genus of cowries, and which are known in French under the vulgar name of *puceluges*. After having carefully washed these shells, they are pounded in order to be reduced to impalpable powder, on which is expressed the juice of a lemon, which makes it a very beautiful white.

The red is drawn from the bulb of a beautiful species of iris, which, with other flowers brought from the same countries in order to constitute the richness of our parterres, embellish the deserted plains and the rural spots of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO. Its stem, upwards of a foot high, and its long leaves, terminated in points, are of a beautiful green; the flower is of a bright violet without, and of a bright yellow, striped with a deeper yellow, within; the stamina are yellow, and the seeds

or fruits are black, and of a very irregular form. The Greeks call this plant *agriò crino*, wild lily, because it is, in fact, a liliaceous plant, although it is not, properly speaking, a real lily.

The following is the method practised for extracting a paint from the bulbous roots of this iris. They are stripped of their exterior pedicles, and are then of a snow white; they are grated, and the pulp is put into water; it is then kneaded, washed three times in clean water, and, at each time, it is strained through a very fine linen cloth. At the third time, the grounds are thrown away, and the last water is left to settle for twelve or fifteen hours. At the end of that time, the water is gently poured off by sloping the jar, at the bottom of which is found an amylaceous sediment; it is dried and reduced to a fine powder, which is kept in bottles or pots well closed, to be made use of as wanted, and it is thus preserved for a very long time. When it is wanted for use, a pinch of it is taken, and put on the cheek, which is then rubbed slightly for a few minutes with the palm of the hand. This application causes, for the first time, a little smarting, but the cheeks become of a vermilion red; for this powder has also the property of giving a lustre to the skin. Neither heat, nor sweat, nor any other cause can dispel this brilliant colour, which does not consist in a coat of substances spread externally, but is inherent in the skin itself. It is unnecessary to renew frequently the same operation; the face preserves its bloom for several days, and a woman may wash herself without fear of making it disappear or weakening it.

I had at first imagined that this very white powder, which gives the cheeks a red colour only by introducing itself into the pores, might hurt the skin of the face and alter it. I convinced myself, not without some degree of surprise, that it had no bad effect. I have examined the face of elderly women, who, from their youth, had employed this sort of paint;

their skin was not in any way affected; it even appeared to have preserved a certain brilliant colour, which could be attributed only to a long use of iris powder, in which I found no other defect, than a strong herbaceous smell, which it would be easy to correct.

From the first day of the month of March till Easter, the women of the ARCHIPELAGO surround their wrists with silk thread of different colours; to these the rich add a gold thread. They think that this is a certain mean of securing themselves from the tanning of the sun during the month of March, which they consider as the most fatal to the skin. On Easter night, which all the Greeks pass almost entirely at church, the women kindle a fire at the door; they throw into it the threads which they have worn as bracelets during Lent, and they address prayers to God, in order that he may deign to preserve every father who loves his daughter, from the mortification of seeing her attacked by the tan of March.

CHAPTER XXIX.

Marriage of the Greeks.—Witchcraft of which young married people imagine themselves victims.—Precautions which young brides must take.—Care which mothers take of their children.—Physic of the Greeks in the Archipelago.—Regret which accompanies the dead.—Death and funeral of a papadia.

TO the Greeks it is a social duty, which tends to the purity of domestic manners, to marry young. Among them are not seen that multitude of old bachelors, children of the combinations of insensibility and the scourge of morals: girls have not many years to celebrate the festival of ST. JOHN with their *secret water*, prepared with an ingenuous and restless curiosity; and young men hasten to unite themselves with those whom their heart, rather than their parents, has chosen. Love always presides at knots which vile interest has not tied; and friendship, as well as fidelity and attachment to duties, do not permit them to be loosened, at least in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, where habits are more simple, and less corrupted by ambition and cupidity, than in great towns. Divorce, which is allowed to the Greeks, scarcely occurs but in the bosom of trading cities and in the opulent class, whose calculations and speculations frequently supply the place of sentiment; but this dissolution of sacred engagements is extremely rare among the islanders, who know how to love in a durable manner, and whose marriages are better assorted than in the midst of the luxury of cities. Conjugal love is there in all its force;

force; and this respected sentiment is one of the virtues of the modern Greek women.

When the dowry is settled between the families, and their consent, which is almost always in unison with the wish of the lovers, has disposed every thing for the nuptials, the young bride is conducted to the bath. The next day, a numerous retinue accompanies the young couple to church; songs and dances enliven a slow and grave march; and, in general, it is preceded by torches, the emblems of that of Love and of Hymen.

At the instant when the young couple come out of their house, cotton-feed is thrown on their heads by handfuls. The same ceremony is repeated at church, at the moment of the nuptial benediction, which signifies that they are wished a life of felicity, composed of as many years as there have been feeds scattered. Persons in somewhat easy circumstances mix parats, small pieces of money of the value of fifteen of our deniers, to the feeds of the cotton-tree, and to these the richest add Turkish sequins, a gold coin, each piece of which is nearly equivalent to seven livres ten sous tournois. In INDIA, it is the priest who scatters on the young couple rice-feeds, as an emblem of fecundity.

The young pair choose a godfather and godmother, who no longer quit them till the end of the ceremony. The retinue is received at the door of the church by the papas, who blesses two crowns of foliage, adorned with ribands and laces, and places them on the head of the young couple; he likewise blesses two rings, and puts them on their fingers: but, during the celebration, he changes every instant the crowns and the rings, giving alternately the crown to the one, and the ring to the other, in such a manner, however, that the gold ring remains with the husband,

husband; and the silver one, with the wife. These changes are renewed by the godfather, the godmother, and the relations, so that they remain a very long time in the church. At length, the papas concludes by cutting small pieces of bread, which he puts into a cup full of wine; he takes some of the former with a spoon, and thus distributes it to the young couple and those present: the party then return in the same order to the house where the nuptial feast has been prepared; the relations and friends send provisions of every sort, and the Greeks, great lovers of festivity, there pass several days.

On going to and returning from church, the bride is supported by two women, or two of her male relations; she walks slowly, with her eyes cast down, and the veil of a grave and interesting modesty covers her face. In some parts of GREECE, as soon as the bride arrives at the door of the dwelling of her husband, a carpet is spread over a sieve, which is placed on the very threshold of the door, and she is made to walk on it. If the sieve, on which she fails not to tread strongly, did not break under her feet, this would excite against her suspicions which would alarm her husband: he is quiet and contented after the trial of the sieve*.

But another trial, more serious, awaits the bride. Conducted to the nuptial-bed by the godmother†, she soon sees her husband arrive, led by the godfather. They are left alone; but the godfather and godmother remain in an adjoining apartment, with the relations and even the friends. They go from time to time, to inquire whether every thing

* See *Les Lettres sur la Grèce*, by GUYR, Paris, 1783, vol. i. page 249.

† *Ducitur in thalamum virgo, stat pronuba juxta.*

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has terminated to mutual satisfaction; they come back, they return, till they are assured of the fact; then they bring to the married couple a nourishing broth, which they take in bed, in presence of the noisy assembly, who then withdraw, to return no more.

Among all the nations of the EAST, the men have been envious of the first fruits, of which they frequently obtain no more than the appearances. In EGYPT, a crowd, still more importunate than in GREECE, lays siege to the chamber of the married couple, and abandons it not till they have given up to them the marks, often equivocal, of a virtue which is outraged. In NATOLIA, and in some other parts of the Ottoman empire, the Turks and the Greeks who marry are obliged to suspend, on the outside of the house, those signs, real or fictitious, of the folly of the men, more than of the innocence of the women, in order that every passenger may examine and ascertain that the honour of the married couple is untainted. However precious these marks may be in the eyes of the Orientals, the Greek women also attach to them another value; it is, in their opinion, the most efficacious of all cosmetics, for removing spots and pimples from the face, and rendering the skin soft and smooth.

But these pretended signs of innocence, which a false pride ambitiously seeks and exacts, do not always appear the first night of the nuptials. Several other nights, and sometimes whole months, elapse before they can be obtained. It is no longer the fault of the wife, it is the husband who thinks himself bewitched: envious people have pronounced words, and performed magical operations; he ceases to be a man. If means be not found to break the charm, the marriage is declared null, and the unfortunate couple separate: custom allows them to contract another

another alliance; and jealous Fate, which had accompanied them in the former, does not attend them in the latter.

The magical operation by which the married couple are *tied*—(this is the term employed by the Greeks, and which answers to what was called among us, formerly, *nouer l'aiguillette*)—this operation, I say, is, according to them, an evocation to the devil; it is practised by forming three loose knots on a string. When the papas gives his benediction to the married couple, the malignant genius, that wishes to hurt them, draws the two ends of the string, tightens the knots, and says: “*I tie “ N—— and N——, and the devil in the middle.*” Nothing more is necessary; the impotence of the husband lasts as long as the knots are not untied; and if the fatal string be lost, or if an obstinate malevolence refuse to undo it, dejection becomes general, and marasmus would lead to death, if the marriage were not dissolved: but this accidental weakness of the body is produced only by that of the mind. There is no Greek who, in marrying, does not dread to be *tied*. To this precaution are added the alarms which the bride and the relations do not conceal from him: he does not present himself at the temple of Hymen but trembling, and with his soul full of terror; and if some circumstances appear to come to the support of this fear, his mind becomes troubled, and his imagination being struck, produces the evil of which it alone is the cause.

I have seen singular examples of what can be effected by the wandering of the imagination. I shall quote that of a young man whom I had a long time before my eyes. At the moment when he received the nuptial benediction, a rival had formed the three knots, and pronounced the imprecations: struck by this idea, though he was in the prime of life, and had, before this period, given proofs of a vigour which forsook him

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all at once; though, in short, his wife was upwards of twenty years of age, and was not reckoned to be of the most rigid virtue, they could not seal their union, and Hymen extinguished his torch. Shame and vexation were painted on the countenance of the young husband; the disorder, or rather weakness, increased in proportion as the mind was affected. Recourse was had to the priests, and to the skill of old women, who pretended to have secrets for destroying the charm: nothing succeeded; the witchcraft resisted every thing. The devil stood firm, and he who thought himself tormented by him, while he was the victim only of his own imagination, reduced to a state which inspired pity, resumed all his energy with another woman, whom he took for wife, after having languished, for whole months, with her who could not be so.

Independently of prayers and holy water, of which the papas is not sparing when he is well paid, I saw tried on this unhappy youth various means for *untying* him, all absurd, and calculated only to make his chimerical ideas take deeper root. He was made to swim across an arm of the sea: the married couple were made to lie down, stripped of every garment, on the flat floor in the middle of the room, and they were surrounded by brambles. Another time, the husband alone was wrapped up in thistle-leaves, and thus left to pass the night in cruel torment, &c. &c. remedies as chimerical as the complaint for which they were applied.

When witchcraft does not happen to disturb the first moments of an intimate union, it is recommended to the husband not to suffer his wife, however thirsty she may be, to take, during the first night, any sort of drink. She must also keep her room, not expose herself to the air for four days, and abstain from all work during eight. These attentions are said to be favourable to population; and, to judge of them by the great number of children that are seen in these countries, it would appear that

they are not useless. Not any woman is seen but with one little child in her arms, and often two. Yet the effects of a happy fecundity are soon consumed, dispersed, and annihilated, by a despotism which is in continual war against nature and the human race.

Nothing equals the state of health, the robust constitution of the little children, except the facility with which they come into the world; an advantage for which the Greek women are indebted to the excellence of their constitution, to a simple, regular life, exempt from excesses, cares, and inquietudes, still more than to physical dispositions, calculated to render deliveries less painful, such as a distension more easy, and favoured by a greater quantity of the waters of the *amnios*. The young married women cheerfully carry the weight of their pregnancy. They see approach, with satisfaction, the term when they shall be invested with a dear and sacred title; and they acquit themselves of the duties which this new state imposes on them with the tender sollicitude and affectionate attentions which constitute the ornament and dignity of a mother. They thus prepare for themselves the sweetest recompense to which a feeling mind has a right to aspire; filial piety is the reward of maternal love; and those virtues, without which all society presents only the image of a scandalous disorganization, are held in honour among the modern Greeks, as they were among the Greeks of antiquity.

In the EAST, are not to be found women who make it an object of speculation to abandon their own children, in order to suckle those of others; a monstrous exchange, which dries up in their source the sentiments of nature, and might in a great measure be pleaded in excuse for the ingratitude of some children towards mothers who voluntarily renounce all claims to their love. The children have not, for a whole year, any other nourishment than their mother's milk. How not be

attached, without reserve, to the bosom whence we have long imbibed our first and only subsistence, where, with our head softly reclined, we have so frequently tasted the repose of innocence, where we have so many times been pressed by the sweet embraces of maternal love!

I found a singular prejudice spread among the women of the ARCHIPELAGO. Those who suckle their children are persuaded that if, for any want whatever, their milk should happen to be warmed over the fire, their bosom would become dry, and the milk would infallibly go away, to return no more.

I have already made mention of several means employed for curing the complaints and indispositions of little children; I shall add that, when they happen to have any complaint at the navel, a cataplasm of foot is applied to it.

However, all physic, in the Greek islands, is founded only on practices, on secrets, which are scarcely more rational than the opinion of the women respecting their milk. If we except a few foreigners, who seldom come thither to assume or usurp the title of physicians, there are none in these islands; and I must add, to the praise of the climate, more than to the detriment of the art, that, generally speaking, people there enjoy a state of health sufficiently good not to be tempted to regret it. In common complaints, or accidents, recourse is had to women, who have the tradition of some recipes, which they apply without too much discernment, but which, nevertheless, often produce good effects. The following are such of those curative methods as I have seen employed on different occasions. I am far from giving them as good remedies; but they afford a sketch of the state in which the art of physic is, in our days, among a people where it has been cultivated by immortal men.

We may well expect not to meet with theory in the exercise of physic, to which women, who have learned nothing, apply themselves in GREECE. A few recipes of empiricism constitute all their skill; and if we may, with some reason, reproach our physicians with too frequently abandoning observation, in order to suffer themselves to be led away by vague and useless systematic conceptions, it must be acknowledged that, in the EAST, people fall into a contrary excess, through the ignorance which accompanies the application of remedies.

Bleeding is there much in use; but the Greeks wait as long as they possibly can before they suffer blood to be drawn from the arm, because they consider the first bleeding of this part as capable of relieving them from the danger of the most violent illnesses; accordingly they reserve it for the most serious cases: in other circumstances, where bleeding appears useful to them, they cause it to be practised in the foot. It is very difficult to determine them to follow another mode of proceeding. I was requested to bleed a young girl in a small island of the ARCHIPELAGO; it was absolutely insisted that she should be let blood in the foot, which appeared to me contrary to the nature of her disorder. I insisted on bleeding her in the arm; and as I was the only person who knew how to make use of a lancet, the relatives, as well as the patient, were compelled to submit to my decision, but very much against their inclination. Two hours after the bleeding, I asked to see the blood: it had been thrown away, and my useless curiosity was highly ridiculed: it was impossible, said they to me, for the blood to be bad, since it was *virgin blood*, that is, that it was the first which issued from the arm, and that it could not but be very good.

It is incontestable, that the ancient physicians of the EAST frequently employed oil in unction. I endeavoured to learn whether this custom was preserved among the modern Greeks, and I convinced myself that
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they scarcely any longer made use of oily unctions in their disorders. Lentisk oil is, as I have already said, a remedy which is rather frequently resorted to in the ARCHIPELAGO for rheumatic pains, and *kedros* oil for the cure of cutaneous diseases. But olive-oil does not often enter into their curative methods: sometimes the loins are rubbed with it, when a person has strained himself; and the natural parts of women, to facilitate delivery, &c. &c. A Turk, commanding a galiot belonging to the Grand Signior, and enjoying, in the ARCHIPELAGO, the reputation of a person replete with knowledge in physic, advised, in my presence, a man tormented by acute nephritic pains, to rub with warm olive oil his loins, belly, and groin: but the oil was not to be pure; it was necessary to throw into it a large lark, and boil it in the oil.

As for extreme unction, the Greeks have no other opinion of that sacrament than the catholics; it is administered nearly in the same manner, and they do not consume in it more oil, which proves that they imagine it not to be a final resource or remedy, endowed with a miraculous gift.

A topical preparation of origany, boiled in wine, and applied on the region of the spleen, is one of the hereditary recipes, preserved in the islands of GREECE, for curing inflammations, obstructions, and pains of that viscus. I must add, that it is one of those which I have seen succeed the best, from the relief which it fails not to give in those sorts of complaints. But, in pointing out this remedy, I must add, that its use, among the Greeks, is accompanied by mysterious accessories, without which they would have no faith in its efficacy. The application of it is to be made only on a certain day of the week, and at a certain phase of the moon: the patient is exposed to the light of that planet; a few grains of salt are scattered; a few words are pronounced, and the cataplasim is applied.

applied. However, origany is more particularly met with in the Island of SIPHANTO; thence it is commonly procured: its name, in vulgar Greek, is *rigano*.

To eat away the superfluous and fungous flesh of wounds and ulcers, the Greeks powder them with sugar, and apply over them some bruised plant or some ointment. In other parts of the LEVANT, the Turks, in order to cause ulcers, boils, carbuncles, even those of the plague, to suppurate, and to soften and dispel swellings, bruises, inflammations, and other accidents of that nature, make use of *opuntia* leaves, roasted for a quarter of an hour on the ashes, and applied as hot as it is possible to bear them. Doctor SHAW adds, that they are also made use of in the gout, and that with all imaginable success*. One of the remedies which the Greeks employ the most frequently for reducing tumours, and every species of enlargement, is to paint in black several crosses on the skin. The latter, at least, which is connected with a religious creed, may very probably not effect a cure; but it has nothing hurtful, and we cannot say as much of many others.

When any one has had a fall, the Greeks think to determine with precision the inward part which has suffered, by rubbing, with the yolk of an egg boiled hard, all the body of the patient: the place where the yolk of the egg breaks, indicates the internal part which has been hurt. But there is no remedy more absurd, and at the same time more preposterous, than that used in the ARCHIPELAGO for curing the inflammation and enlargement of little kernels in the neck and under the root of the tongue, a disorder which is there very common. This remedy consists in rubbing gently the glans of a man over the throat and neck

* SHAW's Travels, 4to. vol. i.

of the patient. The Greeks of these countries are acquainted with no other remedies for such complaints; and I have seen women have recourse to them with much gravity and the greatest possible confidence: so true it is, that it is the corruption of ideas, and consequently of morals, which constitutes the indecency of words and things!

On the uninhabited islets of the ARCHIPELAGO, still more than on the uncultivated grounds of the large islands, rue grows in abundance. The little Islands of SAN GIORGIO and SANT EUSTACHIO, which form on one side the roadstead of ARGENTIERA, are clothed with this plant. The modern Greeks call it *apigano*, and they make use of an infusion of it for killing the worms in children: but they make a much greater consumption of it as a preservative from the witchcraft occasioned by sinister looks; they place the plant whole in several parts of their houses, and they wear its seeds as an amulet on different parts of the body. This superstition, however, is ancient; and we find it consigned in works which, had they not been filled with similar absurdities, would not have obtained the honours of immortality.

The little pimple, which comes sometimes on the eyelids, is known by the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO under the name of *aerida*, which is also that of the grasshopper; and the remedy is to pierce this pimple with a grain of barley.

The only remedy that is employed in the disease which, from the extremity of ARABIA, has spread over all EUROPE, the small-pox*, consists in hartshorn dissolved in water.

* AARON of ALEXANDRIA, a priest and physician of the seventh century, is the first who made known the small-pox, in a treatise in the Syriac language.

The Greeks treat bites of serpents by deep incisions on the wound with a razor, so that the blood flows copiously, and by applications of VENICE treacle and sow-thistle, which they call *tchokous*. I shall resume this article, when I come to speak of the animals natural to those countries.

My intention not being to present a complete course of the practical physic of the islanders of the ARCHIPELAGO, I shall stop here to speak of death, which ends by destroying all mankind, whether they be surrounded by learned physicians, or abandoned to the hereditary routine of empiricism: they have, for every curative resource, nothing but recipes, the greater part superstitious, like those of the old women of GREECE. It is not, however, very certain that people die sooner in countries where there are no physicians, than in those where they are common: it is not the fault of physic, but that of the men who have frequent need of it, from the excesses of an intemperate and irregular life.

All the expressions and marks of grief that the most lively sensibility can inspire are displayed among the Greeks, on the death of a person beloved, and present scenes extremely affecting. Regret, tears, melting adieus, attend the departed to the grave; it is not the cold and momentary transports which custom prescribes, all the movements of which etiquette regulates and marks out, and which affect not more those who are witnesses of them, than those who appear to be moved by them. There, nothing is feigned; grief takes its full scope, and one throws one's self into the arms of death, with the certainty of living for a long time in the memory and in the hearts of one's relations and friends; a consoling idea, which makes one descend into the grave without regret, and smoothes the road of eternity.

The

The shades of the dead do not wander forsaken amidst the solitude of tombs; parents and married people frequently go and fix them by their prayers and their sobs; and these duties of sentiment, entirely disdained among nations that boast of their civilization, as if it could consist of the excess of insensibility, are performed and renewed with the same frankness, and with the same marks of remembrance and grief. Frequent offerings of cakes, wine, rice, fruits, and other dishes, adorned with flowers and ribands, are carried to the grave; they are there consumed and distributed; and this sort of repast, in which the Greeks likewise endeavour to make the dead person participate, is called *coliva*. The priest blesses it, and takes a good share of it. Abundant alms approximate to wretchedness the misfortune of the soul; what death would have eaten in bread, meat, and fruits, during a whole year, is distributed to the poor. Mourning, as well as every sign of affliction, is prolonged; the men suffer their beard to grow; the women neglect their dress: all avoid assemblies, even those of the church; and by the negligence which reigns in their exterior, and the dejection of their countenance, demonstrate the profound melancholy by which they are overwhelmed.

I was one day called, in great haste, to bleed a young and charming *papadia*: the reader may remember that this is the name of the wife of a *papas*, or secular priest. She had, as I was told, fallen into a swoon, in consequence of a violent remedy which had been administered to her. I found her extended on her bed in a room rather large, but heated by several fires, and still more by about two hundred persons, who were in lamentation. The extreme heat of this apartment would have been sufficient to suffocate a person in the best health. On my approach, the crowd made way; a silence, which was scarcely interrupted by a few smothered sobs, reigned in the apartment: I was regarded as a man who was going to pronounce an oracle: every eye;

as well as every one's attention, was directed towards me; an uneasy hope had taken possession of every mind. The young woman seemed to slumber; her cheeks had lost nothing of their colour, and her rosy lips were agreeably closed against each other. She was, nevertheless, without movement, without pulse, and without respiration: a few drops of volatile alkali, introduced into her nose, made no impression; her extremities were cold, and every thing announced that she no longer existed. Her relations, who surrounded the bed of death, did not think that all had been done; they required the trial of a bleeding; but the particular sound conveyed to my ear on introducing my lancet into her arm, demonstrated to me that it was entering into dead flesh. I announced that every hope was lost; and scarcely had I finished these words, when all those present, men and women, crowded round the corpse, threw themselves on the bed, at the same time striking themselves on the forehead, tearing their hair, and venting cries of despair. They called on the dead woman with a loud voice, requested her to live, and entreated her not to forsake them. I found myself in a very awkward predicament: I was no longer seen, no farther attention was paid to me. I was squeezed on all sides, pushed on the bed, and almost smothered. I had much difficulty to extricate myself from this embarrassment, and force my way through the crowd, in order to escape from a place which no longer presented any thing but the delirium of affliction.

The next day, I saw the funeral procession of this same woman: she was borne on a kind of litter, with her face uncovered, and dressed in her wedding clothes. Her mouth was filled with cotton: it is a universal custom, among the nations of the East, to stop closely with cotton every aperture of the body; and the Greeks never fail, when a person has expired, to open doors and windows, in order that the angels may come in and go out freely.

A great

A great number of persons formed the procession. In towns, hired female mourners vent plaintive cries; but this luxury of grief is unknown in the greater part of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; no one is paid to cry, and people cry themselves with much bitterness. The female relations of the dead woman were particularly distinguishable, from the excess of their groans and the movements of their affliction: they struck and tore their breast; their long hair, unbraided and undressed, fell loose on their shoulders and neck, and from time to time they pulled off locks of it; the blood gushed from their head, and their tears were mingled with the drops of blood which flowed from their cheeks, torn by their nails. It is not possible to paint the agitation of soul with which these feeling and loving women were transported; and I was so struck by it, that I shall long preserve the impression of melancholy left on my mind by the violence of their affliction.

CHAPTER XXX.

State of agriculture in the islands of the Archipelago.—Ivraie.—Practices used in the sowing of corn.—Mixture of corn.—Two months' corn.—Manner of preserving corn.—Hares.—Vulgar error respecting those animals.—Rabbits.—Sporting dogs.—Foxes.—Moles.—Weasel.—Hedgehog.—Birds which live constantly in the islands of the Archipelago, and those which are birds of passage.

IN the course of this work, I have presented several details concerning the agriculture of the Orientals in general, and of the Greeks in particular. To these I shall add others that will complete the knowledge of the state in which this very important branch of public economy is in our days in the LEVANT.

Agriculture, the energetic spring of the prosperity of nations, and the source of their riches, languishes wherever it is oppressed by slavery and an arbitrary and violent government. If we compare its present situation in countries where the climate and the soil concur to invite and preserve fertility, with what it was formerly, and what it may once more become there, the mind is again tormented by the painful recollections which arise at every step.

The farmers of most of the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO have neither means nor industry. Two sorry oxen there draw a bad plough, the share of which scarcely divides the surface of the soil. One single ploughing precedes the sowing; the sower follows the plough, and scatters the seed

to right and left. The harrow is not in use; accordingly the feed sown is partly the prey of several species of animals which arrive in feed-time, that is, in the month of November, and particularly ring-doves.

The little attention that is paid to the choice of wheat feed, the wild plants which grow at liberty in the fields, and there scatter their feeds, render the crops extremely encumbered by a foreign and frequently hurtful vegetation. Tares, which the Greeks call *ira*, are there very abundant; and as they do not always take time to separate them from the good grain, especially during the years of scarcity, which the detestable administration of these islands renders frequent, the bad effects of its mixture is felt pretty frequently in the bread; violent headaches and pains of the stomach, dimness of sight, in short, complete stupefaction are the consequence of this bad food, the fruit of negligence and a certain sign of a miserable agriculture.

But the Greeks think to redeem the indifference which they betray in their rural labours, by superstitious practices, more scrupulously observed than the cares of a good culture. The first day of sowing time is a holiday for the owner; he dresses himself in his best clothes, invites his friends, and spends with them the day in feasting and diversion. All the time that the sowing lasts, one must not give, nor suffer fire to be taken from one's house to that of any neighbour: this precaution is the only one of which the Greeks make use for preserving their wheat from the rot.

These bad cultivators frequently sow the same field with two sorts of feed at a time; an operation which is imitated in several of our countries, by mixing wheat and barley, or one of these two grains with rye, and which good agriculture reprobates. In fact, the crops which this mixture

mixture produces loss in quality and in quantity; for the maturity of both these plants not taking place at the same time, if the cultivator wait till the most backward grain be ripe, the ears of the other lose their corn, and become empty: if, on the contrary, he gather in his harvest as soon as the most forward grain is ripe, the other, which is not so, produces almost nothing, and spoils the good by its mixture at the mill, and in being made into bread. It appears that the legislator of the Jews was sensible of the inconveniences of the mixture of several species of corn in sowing land, in use in the EAST, when he forbids them to sow together two different sorts of grain.

When, in this mixture of corn-seed, wheat and barley are in equal quantity, the Greeks call it *migadi*; when there is more barley than wheat, the same mixture takes the name of *yénima*. They sow a sort of wheat which they call *diminiti*, that is, of two months, because, in fact, it requires only two or three months to arrive at its maturity. This species is much esteemed in the LEVANT; it yields more flour in proportion than other corn, and the bread which is made of it is finer and better flavoured. It is sown in March or April; its stalk rises less than that of the other wheats, but the straw which it furnishes is reckoned to be hurtful to cattle.

For cutting the crops, sickles are made use of in GREECE; the sheaves are carried to a threshing-floor made in the fields; oxen and asses tread them under foot, and cause the grain to come out of the ear. The corn is afterwards collected; it is winnowed, and buried, for forty or fifty days, in holes prepared for receiving it every year: the Greeks assert, that after that time it keeps better, and that it is never attacked by weevils. The utility of this very simple method ought to induce us to
3 make

make a trial of it in our countries, where we have so much difficulty in preserving corn from the ravages of insects.

Game is in plenty in the islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but it is there laborious to pursue it through thick bushes, or on a soil closely strewn with rocks, or covered with stones. Hares are there very common; their fur is gray, in which they differ from ours, which are fawn colour, brown, or almost red. They are equally common in TURKEY, and on the continent of GREECE. The law of MAHOMET, as well as that of the Jews, forbids the use of the flesh of the hare; but the Turks of CONSTANTINOPLE, SALONICA, and the other large trading cities, having become less scrupulous observers of the dietetic regimen prescribed by their religious code, have determined to pursue hares and eat them. The only precaution which they take, when they have brought down any game, is to hasten to bleed it in the neck, in order not to infringe a law which forbids them to make use of the flesh of an animal that has not been bled; and this precaution hurts the flavour of game, and in particular deprives the hare, whose blood is very sweet and delicate, of that which contributes most to make it a good dish.

The Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO, who have preserved to the hare its ancient name of *lagos*, are also great destroyers of this species of game. They go in quest of these animals on the rocky mountains, of which their islands are formed; they nimbly climb to the top of the steepest; they clear the precipices; and in these excursions, fatiguing to excess, and even dangerous for an European who might attempt to follow them, they seem to dispute the palm with the bouquetins which inhabit the same rocks, and which they likewise find means to surprise in retreats inaccessible to all others but these islanders.

The

The leverets of GREECE, like all those of the more southern countries, have all their hair curling at their birth, and while very young. The same appearances have produced, in all places, nearly the same errors, which are accredited more or less, according as the number of intelligent observers is more or less considerable. It has been said (this is not solely a popular error, it has been written by grave authors) and, in general, it passes for a certainty in the LEVANT, that hares are hermaphrodites; that the males engender like the females, or rather, that there is no distinct sex in this species of animals, since, passing alternately from the one to the other, they are males during one month, and females during another month, and since Nature has condemned them thus to change, every thirty days, enjoyments and functions, which would form a mode of existence the most whimsical that can be imagined. This ridiculous opinion, wholly destitute of sense, and which is owing to accidents rather trifling in the genital parts of hares*, is also adopted by the Europeans who frequent the LEVANT. I have often had to maintain warm disputes on this subject. Hares were instanced to me, as being well acknowledged for males, in whose inside young ones had been found on opening them. But what appeared a demonstration to eyes prepossessed, and little exercised, was in mine no more than a very simple effect of an inattentive examination; and as I was very far from yielding to this pretended proof, ignorance, besides, being now and then accompanied by rudeness and vulgarity, my adversaries ended by being seriously angry at my obstinacy in contending against what they called incontestable proofs.

Rabbits, to which warmth appears favourable, are also very numerous in the EAST. They are seen in the Islands of CYPRUS, of CANDIA, &c.

* See the details of the conformation of those parts, in the *Histoire Naturelle des Quadrupèdes*, by BUFFON, SANNINI's edition, vol. xxiv. page 203, and following.

and in those of the ARCHIPELAGO. These animals are likewise to be found on the uninhabited islets which are in the vicinity of the large islands, or of the continent.

I saw no pointers in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; but I there found a very handsome breed of setters, which would be excellent for the field, if they were broken in: they have an admirable nose, and are lively, indefatigable, and very enterprising. I had for a long time a dog of this breed, which, though of a small size, possessed undaunted courage. One day I shewed him two goats straying on some rocky hills, by the sea-shore. Great as was the agility with which these animals leaped from rock to rock, my dog presently overtook one of them, and strangled it immediately; he then set out in pursuit of the other goat, which, finding itself pressed, jumped into the sea, and swam near a quarter of a league towards the offing. The dog followed it thither, also overtook it, and, after a contest of a few minutes, in the middle of the sea, which was, nevertheless, agitated by a swell, he killed it, and brought it dead to my feet on the beach, where I was waiting for him. These Greek dogs have, in general, eyes very small, but extremely quick.

The other wild quadrupeds of the Greek islands are by no means numerous. No wolves are found there; but in the larger islands, such as the Island of SCIO, are foxes, whose race is much smaller than that of our countries, and their tail much more bushy. The Greeks call this animal *alepo*. Moles are there very scarce, as well as in other parts of the EAST. I never met with any: I was assured, however, that some were to be found, but in very small numbers, in the Isle of SCIO, and that they did not there make themselves remarkable by the havoc which renders them so formidable to our farmers. The Greeks of the Island of

Scio call the mole *tiphlopoudikos*; that is, blind rat. Rats, mice, as well as martins and weasels, are animals common to almost all the islands.

The laws of ancient EGYPT placed the weasel under their safe-guard; it was even worshipped in THEBAÏS. There are still to be found in EGYPT traces of this ancient respect for an animal, which is there common, and which may enter the houses, and commit havock with impunity. This sort of consideration for a noxious animal has been extended and preserved throughout all the LEVANT. The Turks, as well as the Greeks, suffer it to live among them in full liberty; it has nothing to dread, either from the one or the other: the Greek women carry their attention so far as not to disturb it, and they even treat it with a politeness truly whimsical. "*Welcome,*" say they, when they perceive a weasel in their house; "*come in, my pretty wench; no harm shall happen to you here: you are quite at home; pray make free, &c. &c.*" They affirm that, sensible of these civilities, the weasel does no mischief; whereas every thing would be devoured, add they, if they did not behave to this animal in a courteous manner. The name that it bears in these countries is as much connected with the manner in which it is welcomed there as with the beauty of its skin. The Turks call it *gullendish*; and the Greeks, *niphista*: these two words signify, in both languages, *bride*.

The hedge-hog which I had seen in LOWER EGYPT, in the environs of ALEXANDRIA, where the Arabs call it *confhefs*, is scattered all over the LEVANT. I met with it in CARAMANIA, in NATOLIA, in MACEDONIA, in the MOREA, and in some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO.

Almost

Almost all the species of birds of our countries are met with in the LEVANT, whether they live there constantly, or do no more than pass thither. I shall give the enumeration of these species, at the same time distinguishing those which are sedentary in these countries from the species which are there only birds of passage. I shall not speak of them all, but merely of those which I have observed. This account will throw fresh light on the regular migrations of birds: the different routes which they follow, and the chart of which has been drawn by natural instinct, are not yet much known; and this itinerary of the birds of our countries, forced to change every year their climate, in order to provide for their subsistence, is one of the most curious and most interesting facts of natural history.

The period of the passage of birds into the Islands of GREECE varies according to the winds which there prevail. At the end of the summer of 1779, this passage was delayed, because the northerly winds, which are accustomed to reign during that season, blew much later than in other years, and the birds which then go to the south, were obliged to wait for a wind that might favour them in their passage. Accordingly, the period of their passing was of shorter duration that year; the birds, eager to arrive in countries where they were to find warmth of temperature and abundance of food, hastened to repair thither as soon as the favourable wind had sprung up. Another general remark is, that in the spring-passage, that is, on their return to our climates, birds travel in bodies less numerous, and are more dispersed than in their passage in autumn; and this sort of disunion constitutes their safety: being separated, they more easily escape the snares which are spread for them on all sides on their journey. They are also very lean in the spring; while, generally speaking, they are very fat in their autumnal migration.

Hawks remain during the whole year in most of the Greek islands. They retire by night into the holes of the rocks, and particularly into those of the walls of solitary windmills. They lay their eggs at the end of April, or at the beginning of May, and their little brood is hatched in the beginning of June; these little ones are then covered with a gray down, which they preserve upwards of a fortnight. These birds are great destroyers of grasshoppers and crickets; they are very greedy after them, and, from this natural appetite, they render service to agriculture, by ridding it of noxious insects, which generate with a disastrous fecundity, under a climate favourable to their multiplication. I brought up a young bird of prey of this species, taken in the nest a few days after its birth; I scarcely gave it any thing but grasshoppers, crickets, and flies; it appeared very fond of them, and greedily swallowed those insects quite whole, however large they might be.

Several other species of birds of prey, such as the falcon, the kite, &c. appear to remain all the year in the Islands of the LEVANT, and there spread alarm and carnage among innocent families of little birds. Some kites, however, are there birds of passage. Birds of night are there likewise settled, and never quit their gloomy abodes, which they cause to re-echo with their mournful cries in silence and darkness.

Among the small species of birds of prey, the passage of the rufous magpies is very remarkable. Their annual migration, pretty generally admitted, has been unseasonably disputed by a modern naturalist*. It is about the 14th of the month of August that they pass into the southern Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, in order to repair to Egypt, and probably also to the coast of BARBARY. Notwithstanding the length of their voyage, as, in this hot season, they meet in their route with a great quan-

* LE VAILLANT, *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'AFRIQUE*, article magpie.

tity of insects, on which they principally subsist, they are then very fat, and are, besides, delicate eating. The Greeks catch a great many of them; but it is on their arrival on the shores of EGYPT, that is, towards the middle of September, that they afford greater scope to their own destruction, by their union and fatigue, which deprive them of the faculty of escaping the snares that are laid for them. The Arabs pursue them with nets, and they take a somewhat considerable number of them, which they carry alive to market, after having confined their bill with one of their large wing-feathers, in order to avoid the effects of their mischievousness. They do not remain long in LOWER EGYPT, and I imagine that they continue their route towards ARABIA, a country that gives birth to a multitude of grasshoppers, which are, for the magpie, choice food. The Arabs call this bird *dagnoafs*; the Greeks, *varo-kephalos*, that is, *heavy head*; and the Provençals, *darnagua*.

The vulture, properly so called, makes its appearance sometimes in the islands; it is more common on the continent. Its fat is esteemed, by the Turks and Greeks, a very good topical remedy for curing, or at least for alleviating, rheumatic pains. The name of this bird, in vulgar Greek, is *skannia*.

If, from this class of destructive birds, living only by rapine or feeding on carcases, we pass to the peaceable and useful gallinaceous tribe, we shall find in the poultry-yards of several parts of the LEVANT, the most beautiful species of hens, and at the same time the most fruitful.

In the plains and on the mountains, red partridges, and bartavelles or Greek partridges, are very numerous; but it is as difficult to get at them as at hares, when, quitting the vallies, they retire to steep mountains, in the midst of rocks, precipices, and clumps of bushy and close set shrubs.

They

They there feed on the fruits of the juniper, the *kedros*, the lentisk, &c. &c. The berries of this last-mentioned shrub, in particular, occasion their flesh to contract, especially in the hind parts, a strong bitter flavour. These partridges are the most plentiful, as well as the best game in the LEVANT. They are, in some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, in prodigious quantities, and are there sold at a very low price. The young partridges are hatched in the beginning of May, and they are good to be eaten in June. They are most commonly pursued with a gun; the fowler keeping himself concealed, or surprising them when they come to drink near some spring. In some places, snares are set for them, or they are enclosed in nets; in the MOREA, they are caught with a net, into which they are attracted by the image of a partridge painted on canvass.

The gray partridge is not known in the EAST. A Greek might, like ATHENÆUS, again manifest surprise that all the partridges of ITALY had not a red bill, as they had in his country. We begin to meet with the gray species in the north of TURKEY, in the environs of CONSTANTINOPLE and of SALONICA, together with the red species; the former keeps on the plains; and the latter, on the mountains.

Independently of these two species of partridges, we also sometimes see in the EAST another smaller species, which is called *the little gray partridge*, or *the DAMASCUS* partridge of ALDROVANDUS*, a very roving species, but which does not always follow the same routes; it is also a bird of passage in several countries of EUROPE, and even in northern climates; they there appear in great bodies, but at distant intervals, not regularly every year, and only for some days; so that the passage of these very rambling birds cannot be fixed, nor the route which they take well ascertained, any more than the motive of this erratic life. Neither does it

* *Tetrao damascinus*. LINN.

appear that the season or the nature of the climate has any sort of influence on the excursions of this species of partridge; it is often found, and in great numbers, on the heated sands of EGYPT, where it is called *katta*: on the other hand, it appears as frequently, during the cold months of December and January, in the north of TURKEY, where it arrives in autumn, and I saw very numerous covies of them, which made their appearance only for a few days in a district of the *ci-devant* LORRAINE, during the winter of 1783.

In some places of this work, as well as in that which I have published respecting EGYPT, I have spoken of the prodigious flocks of quails that arrive in the EAST, prodigious from the long passage that birds, which scarcely appear to possess the faculty of flying, venture to undertake over the waters of the sea, as much as from the innumerable multitude of which they are composed. These birds, in order to proceed to their destination, follow a uniform route, from which they seldom deviate; they do not pass to all the Islands of the MEDITERRANEAN, whereas they abound in some, and a small number only is seen in others. The Greeks call them *ortiki*. The inhabitants of the Island of SANTORIN, where quails pass in very large bodies, lay in an ample flock of them, and preserve them pickled in vinegar. On the coast of the MOREA, and particularly at MAINE, they are salted, and afterwards brought for sale to the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: at CERIGO, they are salted in the same manner; but, thus prepared, quails are very bad eating. Every where death awaits these feeble travellers, and they do not escape, but with considerable difficulty, the inconstancy of the elements and the snares of man. In the spring, they are seen to pass into the Islands of the LEVANT, which happen to lie on their route, commonly on the 20th of August, and to repass there on the 20th of April, in order to return to our climates; some remain, or some are passing during the whole month of September.

In the most northern Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, pheasants are sometimes seen during the winter; they come thither from the woods of THESSALIA, where they are in great numbers. The peasants of the environs of SALONICA breed them in the country-places, for the purpose of bringing them to the market of the town, and they are there so common, that they may be purchased at a very low price. It is principally the district of the little town of SERES, eight or nine leagues to the east of SALONICA, that furnishes them in greater abundance. Masters of vessels who, during the winter, frequent the port of SALONICA, scarcely ever fail to lay in a stock of live pheasants, which they keep on board in hen-coops, and feed with wheat. These birds appeared to me larger and handsomer than those of our countries. It is an amusement for the rich Turks of SALONICA, to fly at them birds of prey, which they carry on their fist. When the pheasant takes its flight, the bird of prey, which they let loose, hovering above, compels it to perch on some tree; he then places himself on another over its head, and keeps it in so great a fright that it suffers itself to be approached and easily taken quite alive.

When the winter is cold, cocks of the wood make their appearance in the highest mountains of the some of the islands, and of those which are situated farthest to the south, such as the Isle of MILO. They quit them as soon as the weather becomes milder. It would be an easy matter to kill some of them; but the Greeks set no value on this bird, which they call *agrio gallo*, wild cock.

Above these same mountains, which offer to the sight nothing but shattered rocks, ravens are seen hovering during the winter, together with some vultures. These two species of birds, equally ignoble, endeavour, when poised in the air, to discover rats and small lizards, which

are numerous in the clumps of shrubs that grow between the rocks. The name of the raven, in modern Greek, is *koraka*.

The hooded crow* never quits the islands; I have seen it there in every season of the year. The carrion crow†, on the contrary, is there a bird of passage. Numerous flocks of them are commonly seen on the sea-shore, where they feed on whatever is thrown up by the waves; in the evening they retire into the crannies of the rocks, in order to pass the night. The Provençals have preserved to this species its ancient French name of *graille* or *graye*, and the Greeks call it *kouronna*. They make use of its flesh cut into pieces as bait, which they fasten to their fish-hooks; they practise this manner of fishing, when bad weather prevents them from putting to sea.

Magpies are to be found almost in every place where there are many trees, and they quit not the district in which they have taken up their abode.

Flights of starlings appear sometimes during the winter; and although their flesh is black, lean, hard, and ill-tasted, the Greeks kill them and eat them. It is said, that when the starling, whose name, in modern Greek, is *makro poullo*, that is, black bird, eats figs or dates, it becomes fat, and makes a dainty dish.

A bird, common in our woods and remarkable for its brilliant colours, the jay, which the present Greeks call *falko kouronna*, and the Provençals *bluret*, arrives, like most of the other birds of passage, about the middle of August, in the Islands of GREECE, and at the same time as the

* *Cornelle mantelée*, BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Corvus cornix*. LINN.

† *Corbine* ou *cornelle noire*. BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Corvus corone*. LINN.

turtles. During this journey, it is commonly seen alone, perched on the bushes, and making flights, short and low. Its flesh is at that time much loaded with fat; but it is not better than in our countries, on account of the disagreeable flavour with which it is impregnated. Independently of the jays of passage, there are some which remain all the year in the large islands of the northern part of the ARCHIPELAGO, as that of SCIO. These birds there build their nests and lay in them four, five, and even six eggs; they feed on olives, cherries, walnuts, and acorns of the species of oak which grow there; they make great havock in the plantations of fruit-trees, and are not contented with devouring the fruit on the very trees, but make of it heaps, which they carefully conceal in the ground, and which they know how to find again in case of need. The Sciots amuse themselves in rearing jays; they cut the string of their tongue, an operation which gives to certain species of birds, and to jays in particular, the facility of articulating words, and imitating the cry of different animals. In the Island of SCIO, I have heard jays which mimicked extremely well the barking of the dog, the mewing of the cat, the bleating of the sheep, &c. The name of this bird, in modern Greek, is *kifa*.

The bird with brilliant plumage, which makes our woods resound with its sonorous whistling, the loriote, arrives in the southern Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, at the period when figs are in a state of maturity, that is, at the beginning of August; this fruit is choice food, and they give to its flesh a delicacy which it wants in the countries where the fig-tree does not grow. And, indeed, the Greeks give to this bird the name of *sykophagos*, fig-eater, and, by corruption, in some islands, that of *sykophala*. The passage of the loriotes in these islands scarcely lasts till the month of September; the greater part proceed to LOWER EGYPT, where they in like manner seek fig-trees, as well as mulberry-trees; the inhabitants shoot them, on account of the good quality of their flesh; but they stay little

more than a fortnight in this part of EGYPT, and they pursue their route towards the EAST, in order to find there a suitable climate and an abundance of food.

Tsiclès is the name which the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO give to thrushes, without distinction of species. Some are birds of passage, and others do not quit the islands. During the summer, they are found scattered in the gorges of the mountains; on the approach of the fowler, they penetrate into the middle of the thick bushes, whence it is a very difficult matter to make them rise. In the winter they approach the inhabited places; they keep and run on the ground, alight on high stones, points of rocks, little garden-walls, and shrubs which grow between the rocks; and when the cold is felt with any degree of sharpness, and the north wind blows with violence, as I saw happen in the month of January 1779, those birds seek shelter round the habitations, and even enter the houses, in order to secure themselves from the wind and cold.

Like the thrushes, the blackbirds are, some birds of passage, others stationary in the LEVANT; those which travel thither, arrive and depart at the same period as the thrushes; they all live there in the same manner; but they do not collect in small bodies, but are commonly seen in pairs.

I shall add nothing to what I have said* of the bird with a sonorous voice, with a powerful and agreeable warbling, with which we are acquainted by the name of *solitary blackbird*; it is not peculiar to the Island of CANDIA; it also frequents the remote and stony mountains of several Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: in some of them it bears the name of *psaro smeroula*.

* See Chapter xx. page 255.

Bee-eaters*, which the Provençals call *sirènes*, and the Greeks *melisso-
orghi*, enemies to bees, arrive in the Islands of the LEVANT in the middle
of August, and repass in spring. Their rapid flight renders them difficult
to be killed; however, they are very good eating. I have frequently seen
them, in the month of April, assemble in numerous flocks in little
districts planted with olive-trees, in order to pass the night; but they there
make only a temporary stay, and the next day I no longer found them
in the same place. These birds fly and hover in the manner of swallows,
in order to catch the winged insects, of which they make their habitual
food; and, in this series of rapid movements, they vent a simple, grave,
and soft cry, accompanied from time to time by a cracking noise of
their bill.

At the same time as the rufous wood-chats, that is, about the middle
of August, the fly-catchers† are seen to make their appearance. In the
LEVANT, these two species are not even distinguished, at least by different
names; the Provençals who frequent those countries, confound them
under the denomination of *darnagua*, and the Greeks of the ARCHI-
PELAGO under that of *varo kephalos*, heavy head, which they alike give
to the rufous wood-chat and to the fly-catcher; and this character of the
bigness of the head, compared to that of the body, is so striking, that,
in some parts of our southern departments, it is commonly said of any
one who has a big head, that he has the head of a *darnagua*.

No sooner do the farmers begin to sow the fields in the Greek islands,
at the period of the first rains, which fall at the end of October, than

* *Le guêpier*. BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Merops apiaster*. LINN.

† *Le gobe-mouche*, première espèce, BUFFON, Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux.—*Muscicapa
grisola*. LINN.

there

there are seen to arrive from all quarters considerable flights of ring-doves, troublesome parasites, that rob the land of its corn, the source of the riches which the cultivator intrusts to it. There are some of different sizes, which appear to form certain races: they are birds of passage, and, most commonly, very fat, different from wild pigeons, which remain during the whole year, live and build their nests in the holes of the rocks, and whose flesh is dry and hard. The modern Greeks give the ring-dove the name of *fassa*, and to the wild pigeon that of *pelisteri*.

The flesh of the turtles, whose passage is regular in the ARCHIPELAGO, is scarcely better than that of the wild pigeons, when they appear there in the spring, for about twenty days: they do not suffer themselves to be approached without difficulty, and their leanness constitutes their safety; for, in that season, no one takes much trouble to get within gun-shot of them. But towards the end of the month of August, when they return, they acquire more plumpness and delicacy. Then the Greeks make war on them, and destroy them in great numbers. It is particularly in the Island of POLICANDRO that they abound on their return, and that they meet with almost certain death. Those which avoid destruction, come the following year to expose themselves to the same dangers that they had escaped: instinct, which traces to birds of passage the route on which they are to find a certain subsistence, is more powerful than the care of preserving themselves from the snares that await them on every point of their journey, because this instinct is an inspiration of Nature; and the accidents and dangers with which man ceases not to encompass them, are accidents which may be considered as out of the sphere of Nature, and which, consequently, cannot be conceived but by man, the only animated being that makes it his principal study, incessantly to counteract her.

The

The inhabitants of POLICANDRO pickle in vinegar, in large jars; turtles, in the same manner as those of SANTORIN preserve quails. The latter likewise preserve turtles, but in a smaller quantity than at POLICANDRO, because the passage of those birds is less numerous in their islands.

However, those turtles of passage are of the species which has the top of the head and of the neck cinereous; the breast of a vinous colour; a sort of collar of black feathers, tipped with white, chequered above and below the neck; the back and the rump cinereous and fawn colour; the rest of the under part of the body white, with a vinous tint, which grows weaker in proportion as it approaches the lower part of the belly, where it disappears entirely; the greater wing-coverts the nearest to the body, black, with a broad fawn colour border; the others cinereous; the wing-quills brown above, and gray brown beneath; the tail blackish above, black beneath, and tipped with white; the first quill, that is, the outermost on each side, having its exterior side entirely white; the feet red; and, lastly, the claws black. When these birds are roasted, their red feet change colour, and there exudes from them drops of a liquor of a beautiful gold yellow hue.

To the cuckoo is given the name of *trigono kraēti*, which signifies *conductor of turtles*, because it passes into the Islands of the LEVANT at the same time as those birds; and as the species of the cuckoo is less numerous, commonly no more than one is seen in the middle of a flight of turtles, of which it seems to be the leader. The Greeks call it *ksefteri*, and they say of a person who has a step and countenance lively, but at the same time by no means natural, that he walks like a *ksefteri*, or a cuckoo. It is important to observe, that this bird, when arrived in another country, changes almost all the natural habits which we distinguish

guish in it; for it finds not, on the islands which serve it as resting-places during its journey, forests nor even thickets sufficiently large and close for it to retire to, as in our countries: it ceases also to be a solitary bird; it keeps with other birds of its species, and even travels in numerous company with a species which is quite foreign to it; neither does it cease to be heard the song of love, which its name expresses, and which, among the common people, is likewise the declaration of infidelity. Very lean at the time of its passing in spring, it returns in autumn loaded with fat, and is then reckoned to be very good eating.

The two epochs of the passage of the hoopoe into the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are at the end of March and the beginning of August. This bird, which the Provençals name *putugue*, is called by the Greeks *xilopedino*, wood-chicken; at SCIO, *sala petino*. It is a tolerably good sort of game; and is eaten, not only in the LEVANT, but in ITALY, and even in PROvence. It is somewhat remarkable that, in all the southern countries, the hoopoe is eaten, while, in our northern departments, it causes disgust by its bad smell.

Sparrows, the bold parasites of our plains, assemble in the EAST, as with us, wherever Fertility has fixed her abode; their concourse round the habitations, and under the roofs of farmers, is a certain sign of the abundance which there reigns, and of the flourishing state of agriculture: we may, without fear of being mistaken, judge of the richness or the poorness of a district by the number of sparrows which are there to be found; and wherever there are none, poverty prevails. It is for this reason that those birds, very common in the LEVANT, and the habitual guests of the people of that country, do not frequent the miserable Island of ARGENTIERA, except for a few moments at the period of sowing-time,

time, when they come to steal part of the seed; while they inhabit, in great numbers, the more fertile islands, and in particular that of MILO, whence they come sometimes to ARGENTIERA to exercise their easy robberies.

The bunting, which the Greeks call *psaroni*, passes at the beginning of winter and in the month of March. In autumn, it is seen on the ground, in the sown fields, and sometimes perched on lentisks. In spring, it frequents these same stripped fields, and alights more frequently on shrubs: it does not bide alone, but always in flocks, which the inhabitants pursue, because the bird is, in general, tolerably fat, and good to be eaten.

Another species of small bird, which passes in considerable numbers into some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO at the same period as the bunting, is the *lougaro* of the Greeks, which is our greenfinch.

The stone-chatter, a restless bird, appeared to me not to quit the Islands of the LEVANT, where it finds, all the year round, insects on which it feeds.

I presume, on the contrary, that the wheat-ear is not attached the whole year to the soil of the islands, and that it comes thither in the spring, and at the end of the autumn. In GREECE it bears the name of *aspro-kolo*, or *cul-blanc* (white arse), by which it is commonly distinguished in our countries. It lives alone, like the stone-chatter, and individuals of this species do not assemble in flocks; they almost always keep on the top of shrubs, or on the point of rocks.

The

The bird which, from its vivacity, and the *allegro* of its song, has deserved to represent the emblem of gaiety*, the chaffinch, does not always remain in our climates during the winter. The species is half-sedentary and half-roving; and observation has not yet led to a discovery of the causes which determine chaffinches to seek, at a distance, a mild temperature, while others remain in the midst of our rural habitations, where they brave the rigour of the hoar-frosts, and share with the sparrows the food which the farmer's wife distributes to her poultry. Some are seen to arrive in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, towards the end of October, and they go thither with attributes which lead to their destruction; their flesh is then fat and tolerably delicate. But among the great number of these birds which I saw in the islands, I remarked some whose plumage indicated young birds of the year, which might lead me to suspect, with much probability, that those chaffinches came not from any great distance, and that they had nested in some neighbouring land. The Greeks of the greater part of the islands call the chaffinch *moudakio*; and the people of SCIO, *spinós*.

Nightingales are seen sometimes, but rather seldom, to pass into the same islands, at the end of the summer: it appears that their route is directed more to the south; they live, during the severe season, in the verdant and smiling plains of LOWER EGYPT, and perhaps also on the coasts of SYRIA and of BARBARY. During their passage, and their stay on shores which are foreign to them, since they do not there busy themselves about their reproduction, they warble not those melodious songs, those varied and brilliant modulations, with which they, night and day, make our woods and orchards resound: they are silent, because they have not to sing their loves.

* The French say, proverbially, *gai comme un pinson*, as we say, *gay as a lark*.

In some parts of ASIA MINOR, as NATOLIA, the nightingale is rather common, and quits not the forests and groves which it has chosen. The modern Greeks have, very nearly, preserved to this bird, whose admirable singing does not save it from the gluttony of men, the name of *aedon*, which their ancestors had given it, and they still call it *adoni*, *aidoni*, or *agdoni*.

The charming species of little birds, whose aspect of sweet innocence, and whose engaging familiarity, cannot obtain favour in the eyes of man, who sacrifices every year thousands of them to the luxury and profusion of his table, the red-breast, arrives in the LEVANT in the month of October: the Greeks call it *yanni*, or *yannaki*. It seldom passes into the open islands; but it seeks those which are shaded by numerous clumps of trees or shrubs, such as the Isle of SCIO, where the red-breasts repair in crowds, and embellish the little woods of lentisks and wild myrtles, with which that luxuriant island is filled. These birds, for the most part, there find nothing but death: their number, as well as their innocent confidence, betrays them; and the Greek bird-catcher, like the fowler of our countries, wages against them a war the more cruel, as they come, with the candour of an interesting weakness, and present themselves, as it were, of their own accord, to the snares which he sets for them.

The same name of *yanni*, or *yannaki*, which the inhabitants of most of the Greek islands give to the red-breast, is likewise applied by them to another little bird of a different species, and which has some red on a part quite opposite to that which is so agreeably coloured in the red-breast: I mean the red-start, whose passage, or rather two passages, that of autumn and that of spring, take place at the same epoch as those of the red-breast. I have seen these little birds flutter about the rocks and shrubs the most exposed to the sun, in the early part of the spring, or at the beginning

of March: they do not keep precisely in flocks, but are met with in tolerably great numbers, more scattered than assembled, in the same district.

We should frequently be led into an error, were we to adhere to the denominations which the modern Greeks give to birds, particularly to the small species, in order to distinguish them from each other. We have just seen that they confounded, under the same name, the red-breast and the red-start; and this name is also applied to other small birds. Thus it is that they call *skardalio*, the common linnet, and a few other species. Linnets are also birds of passage among the Greeks of the ARCHIPELAGO: sometimes numerous flights of them are seen; they alight on the brambles, with which the soil is covered between the masses of rocks that compose the mountains.

The goldfinch, which bears the name of *karedino*, does not appear all the year in most of the islands: it is not, however, a traveller, or a bird of passage; but it prefers keeping in the large islands, and on the lands of the continent, where it finds places of shelter more safe, retreats more numerous and more agreeable, than on the naked summit of the mountains, which form the greater part of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO.

But on all these eminences, the remnant of a submerged continent, are seen wagtails and bergeronnettes: the former keep more willingly on the margin of rivulets and pools; the others prefer spreading themselves over the enclosures, and endeavour to approach the animals which are there fed, and they all diffuse a certain movement of life and gaiety on a soil frequently rugged and melancholy. Wagtails appear to be birds of passage, and bergeronnettes not to quit the places which have given them

birth. During the winter, sometimes on rocky hills, and at a little distance from the sea, I met with *bergeronnettes*, which, to judge of them from their plumage, were very young. I was told, indeed, that those birds nestle, even in winter, on the little desert islands, whence they afterwards spread themselves throughout the larger ones. In EGYPT, I had seen a *bergeronnette* almost entirely of a dazzling white; at MILO, I met with a variety of the wagtail, all the under part of whose body was white.

Common larks make their appearance, frequently in flocks, in the plains of these elevated countries: here, too, is also seen the tit-lark, which is a bird of passage, and which the Maltese call *bourboli*. I am inclined to think that a few other birds of the same genus pass hither regularly twice a year.

Here likewise are seen several species of the tit-mouse; but I was not able to ascertain whether they remained here always, or whether they were only temporary visitors.

The common wren*, which the Provençals call *putois* and *père de la bécassè*, is a passenger in the Islands of the ÆGEAN SEA: it repairs to the coast of EGYPT, and is seen pretty frequently, during our winter, in the ever-heated environs of ALEXANDRIA, and of other places in LOWER EGYPT. This little bird, eaten quite raw, is, according to some physicians of the LEVANT, an excellent remedy for the stone in the bladder.

I also sometimes perceived, in clumps of lentisks, the little bird which, from its orange colour crown and its weakness, has obtained the name

* *Motacilla troglodytes*. LINN.

of *roitelet* (the gold-crested wren); and I have some reason to think that it fixes its abode in places which afford it a mild climate and abundance of food. At Scio, it is called *vacilisko*, and in other islands, *regolago*.

Fig-peckers, birds whose delicate and savoury flesh constitutes one of the dishes in request for our tables, arrive in the LEVANT in the month of September, and there look for the figs as they ripen. The Island of MALTA is a resting-place for these little birds, as well as for other species, such as quails, tit-larks, &c. &c. Their passage into that island is suspended when the west and north-west winds blow, and they arrive there only with those from the east and south-east.

On the 17th of March, I saw for the first time, in 1780, the swallow make its appearance at ARGENTIERA. The wind had been several days to the north-east; but in the night it had shifted to the west, the sky was serene, and the sun hot. The Greeks, like their ancestors, call the swallow *kelidoni*. The martin comes into the north of TURKEY in the month of April, and stays there to build its nest.

During the winter, the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO are sometimes covered with woodcocks, which are also birds of passage. They come thither most commonly from the mountains of the MOREA, where the cold is sharp, owing to the quantity of snow which falls there, and they go as far as LOWER EGYPT to seek a milder temperature. Snipes are likewise seen there during the same season.

Lapwings, like woodcocks, are winter travellers; they spread themselves over the islands when the cold, which there is never severe, begins to be felt, that is, in the month of January: they are but passengers,
and

and they scarcely appear there for more than ten or twelve days. But on the coast of CARAMANIA, those birds are assembled in great numbers during the winter. In some of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, the lapwing is called *pélékoda*; and in others, *chimanitès*, or winter-bird.

Sea-larks, which the Provençals call *charlots de plage*, snipes, curlews, and particularly a multitude of ducks of several species, frequent the shores and waters of the islands, especially during the winter season, and are, with other water-fowl, the enumeration of which would occupy too much room in a work not solely intended for natural history, a resource which adds to the abundance and the variety of food.

CHAPTER XXXI.

Tortoises.—Snails.—Fishes of the Archipelago.—Importance of the fishery in the Archipelago.—Common cuttle-fish.—Eight-armed cuttle-fish.—Nautili.—Tethys.—Conchylia.—Sea-lungs.—Sea-urchins.—Sponges.—Crustacea.—Water caltrops.

SEA-TORTOISES are rather common along the coasts of GREECE, and particularly near those of the MOREA. Land-tortoises appeared to me scarce in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: true it is, that they are not there in request, because they are not good to be eaten. They are sometimes employed for a very singular use; they are intrusted with the care of ridding the houses of the enormous quantity of fleas with which they are infested, especially during the summer. It is sufficient, say the Greeks, to place one of these tortoises in an apartment, to free it of fleas: those insects throw themselves in crowds, and with a sort of rage, into the mouth of the tortoise, which the heat occasions it to keep open; it swallows them as fast as they place themselves there, and it thus ends by destroying them all in the course of a few days. I have seen French navigators in the LEVANT have great confidence in this property of tortoises, and not fail to take some on board, in order to rid their ships of fleas, which there also multiply prodigiously in these warm climates.

On the early rains of the autumn, the inhabitants of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO pick up in the fields little snails, which at that time
make

make their appearance there in very great numbers*: they dress them, in order to eat them; and it is a very indifferent dish, which has no other merit than that of costing nothing, though this is of some consequence in the eyes of poor people, whom the government devotes to wretchedness, by stifling in them every germ of industry.

A very deep sea, whose waters cover a bottom almost entirely formed of sand and stones, and bathe a considerable extent of lands and rocks, which afford retreats and food to fishes, is an immense reservoir, whence men may derive inexhaustible means of subsistence. But fishing, like every other branch of industry, languishes under an administration which copiously pours forth discouragement; and the want of activity, which prevails in this important branch, a source of comfort and prosperity for people that can give themselves up to it without constraint, renders fish less abundant and dearer than it ought to be in the islands subject to the Ottoman empire. In fact, this part of the MEDITERRANEAN abounds with fishes of different species. I have already made mention of several of them: it remains for me to indicate a few others.

I have not unfrequently seen caught large ray-fish, of the species which our fishermen call the *pastenague* (the fire-flaire); and the modern Greeks, *salakie*.

The *scarus*, a fish famous among the ancients, and which the inhabitants of modern GREECE still call *skaros*, is common in their sea. It keeps in the holes of the rocks which skirt the coasts; and it is even asserted, that it lives there in numerous societies, with fishes of its species, and that these societies have a chief, who directs them, and whom they

* The present Greeks call this small species of snails *saliaka*.

follow as soon as he issues from the retreat which they have chosen. It is, however, a very difficult matter to draw them out of their dark abode: and, indeed, they are never caught with the net, but are taken with hook and line. When the scarus has bitten at the hook, he is made fast to a string, and left in the water; then all those which are near the place quit their holes, surround the captive, and end by being hooked themselves. They feed on herbs, and the plants which grow in the water. The scarus is still dressed as in former times: the ancients said, that, on the table of the gods themselves, scari, whose entrails had been taken out, ought not to be served up; at present, even, they are never gutted, to appear on the table of men, and their inside is a delicate viand, which also communicates a flavour to their flesh.

Another species of rock-fish, which is frequently taken in the sea of GREECE, is the *sea-perch*. It has there preserved the name of *perke*, or *perkis*, which it bore among the Greeks of antiquity, and which is now pronounced *perka*. This is a fish very common in the MEDITERRANEAN, whereas, according to WILLUGHBY, none are to be found in the waters of the OCEAN*. BÉLON had made the same assertion before the English naturalist†. This fish does not become very large; it scarcely ever attains a foot in length; its flesh is soft, and far inferior in point of flavour to that of the river-perch, to which some people have thought proper to compare it: anciently it was held in no estimation, and OPIAN ranks it among the fishes which the fisherman hastens to throw again into the sea‡. It cannot be doubted that GALEN meant the river-perch, when

* Historia Piscium, lib. iv. cap. iii. page 327. † De Aquatilibus, lib. i. page 268.

‡ ———— "Piscator promptus in æquor

"Demittit percas et niliacos coracinos."

he says that it is a true rock-fish very well-tasted, although its flesh is soft and short*. RONDELET has asserted improperly that GALEN had in view the sea-perch†; WILLUGHBY, with reason, reproves the French ichthyologist on this subject, and he affirms, that it is incontestable, that the river-perch, from the goodness and wholesomeness of its flesh, is far preferable to the sea-perch‡. It is probable that RONDELET, living on the southern coast of FRANCE, participated in the opinion of those of our time, who, accustomed to sea-fishes, of which they still heighten, by tart and heating sauces, the flavour that the sea-water occasions them to contract, no longer have any relish for the flesh of fresh water fishes, and disdain it.

The Greek fishermen also take with hook and line another species of saxatile fishes, which live, like the sea-perch, in the holes of the rocks, but whose flesh is much more wholesome and savoury. This is the *sparus*, whose name of *spargo* recalls to mind that which it formerly bore in the same countries.

One of the fishes the most common in the sea of the ARCHIPELAGO, is the *fargus*§, named by the ancient Greeks *fargos*; and by the moderns, *fargo*. It is a rather indifferent fish, whose flesh is hard, and almost always as tough as leather, which may even be discovered in dressing it; for, on being cooked, it shrinks and curls up.

Although the *fargus* keeps in the cavities of the rocks on the sea-shore, as, from preference, it singles out those, the foot of which is covered

* De Aliment. Facult. lib. iii.

† Historia Piscium, lib. vi. cap. viii. page 120.

‡ Loco *supra* citato.

§ *Sparus fargus*. LINN.

with ooze and mire, it does not there acquire the good qualities which make other fishes, inhabitants of stony places, a delicate food. It is commonly taken with hook and line, and the hooks are baited with pieces of crow's flesh, a paste composed of flour and old cheese being first thrown into the surrounding water, by way of further allurements. But the fishermen who take the greatest number of fargi, and of all the other fishes of the ARCHIPELAGO, are the bold and vigorous divers of the Isle of SYMI. They spread themselves in all the channels with which the Greek islands are encompassed; and, while they are employed in fishing for sponges, they make an ample capture of fishes with which they supply these same islands, and it is then only that this kind of provision there becomes cheap. The Symiots commonly make use of a harpoon in the form of a trident, with which they pierce the fishes that they perceive at a great depth, and especially the fargi, which, keeping between the rocks of the coast, are more easily discovered.

I saw but seldom the *skarmos* of the modern Greeks, which appeared to me not to differ from the sea-trout.

The silvery-eyed red sparus * is common, not however on the coasts of all the islands of the MEDITERRANEAN; but there is not any near which it appears more frequently than the little Island of LAMPEDOSA. The Greeks call it *lythrina*, a word corrupted from that of *erythinos*, which it bore anciently. This is a greedy fish, which not only devours fishes much smaller than itself, but also crustacea. In all those which I opened, I found remains of the *squilla gibba*, and the examination that I made of their interior parts, convinced me of the error of ARISTOTLE, who

* *Sparus erythrinus*. LINN.

was of opinion that there existed no male in this species, for I saw several which had neither spawn nor ovarium. The flesh of the silvery-eyed sparus is white, fat, and of an exquisite taste; the best way of dressing it, is by frying, if we except perhaps the manner taught by JOVIUS, of which I have not made a trial, and which consists in frying it as soon as it comes out of the water, and in keeping it afterwards, for a few days, in orange juice. "Thus dressed and preserved, the silvery-eyed red sparus," says JOVIUS, "surpasses all other fishes in point of the flavour and delicacy of its flesh*." PLINY has said that this species of sparus, left to putrify in wine, creates a disgust for that liquor in those who drink of it; but I do not believe that it is necessary to go a great way for a silvery-eyed red sparus, in order to produce such an effect, and every other fish that might be left in a state of putrefaction in wine, would be fit to inspire with disgust those who should have the courage to taste of it.

Among the rare fishes in the ARCHIPELAGO, must be reckoned the king of the mullets†. I met with but a single one during my stay in the LEVANT, and the Greeks to whom I shewed it, in order to know its name, were not acquainted with it.

But the real mullet, the bearded mullet‡, that exquisite fish, which the cruel luxury of ancient ROME caused to be cooked over a slow fire, on the tables even, and under a glass, in order that the guests might enjoy the sight of the beautiful shades produced by the slow degradation of its charming red colour, and, as it were, feed their eyes with the sufferings

* *De Romanibus Piscibus*; Romæ, 1524. folio.

† *Mullus imberbis*. LINN.

‡ *Mullus barbatus*. LINN.

of the fish, before they satiated themselves with its flesh; the real mullet, I say, is frequently taken in the ARCHIPELAGO.

The shielded *pleuronectes* * is there more scarce; the Greeks call it *glossa*.

Atherines, of the species which has been called *joel* †, and to which the modern Greeks have preserved the name of *atherno*, derived from that of *atheriné*, which it had anciently, assemble in very numerous shoals near the shores of most of the islands, and sometimes a prodigious quantity of them is taken. The following is the most usual manner of fishing for them. Being provided with a long stick, at the end of which is fastened a horse's tail, or a piece of black cloth, a man walks along the sea-shore, dragging it in the water in calm weather. The atherines gather in a crowd round it, and follow its motions; in this way they are conducted into some opening formed by two rocks, which are closed by a net fastened to two sticks; the water is agitated, and the little fishes, wishing to escape, are withheld by the net, the extremities of which are drawn together.

The atherine, held up to the light, is diaphanous; and when it is dressed, even by frying, the spots or little black specks of its back are still very apparent, as well as the longitudinal stripe of the sides of the body, which become only blackish and more narrow. However, there are frequently found among the atherines that are taken, small fishes which the Greeks do not distinguish by different denominations, although they are of separate species, and even of separate genera.

They call the sea-gudgeon ‡, common in their sea, *kowvion*.

* *Pleuronectes passer*. LINN.

† *Atherina hepsetus*. LINN.

‡ *Gobius paganellus*. LINN.

I sometimes amused myself, on the solitary rocks of some of the islands, in holding a line suspended above a tranquil and transparent water; little fishes presently quitted the crannies of the rocks in which they dwell, and threw themselves on a deceitful bait. In this manner, I very frequently caught the small variegated labrus *, with short and delicate flesh, but the variety and lustre of whose colours ought to secure it from the gluttony of men. Most of the modern Greeks call it *illeca* or *igluca*; and those of RHODES and CANDIA, *afdelles* and *zillo*: the Italians give it the name of *donzellina*, and all these names recall to mind its elegant form and dazzling appearance, on which glisten with a mild lustre the most lively and most harmonious colours.

The *smaris* also increased the produce of my fishing; this little fish, of a form as elegant as the small variegated labrus, but far less richly adorned, is likewise delicate eating. It was formerly called in GREECE *smaris*, and now it still bears a name nearly similar, *fminarida*. The islanders of the ARCHIPELAGO also distinguish it by the name of *tratto psara*, net fish; the *traite* or *tratta* is a sort of net with close meshes, with which is taken a great quantity of these little fishes that abound in the openings of the rocks, of which the coasts of the islands are almost entirely formed. The fishermen of PROVENCE call them *giarrets* or *jarrets*, not from the latin word *girus*, as BÉLON asserts, but on account of their form, the outlines of which resemble those of the calf of a leg well-rounded†. The Italian seamen, who frequently fish for the *smaris* tribe, leave them for a few days in a basket with salt; they then string them as a species of chaplet, which they hang to dry in the sun; thus dried, these fishes are reckoned very good eating.

* *Sparus smaris*. LINN.

† *De Aquatilibus*, lib. i. page 226.

The species of dog-fish, which commonly with us bears the name of *poisson-chat* or *chat rochier**, and which the Greeks call by the generic denomination of *squilo psaro*, dog-fish, delights in playing around the rocks of the islands. The season in which it is most frequently taken is the month of March; its flesh, although very white, and not so bad as that of several fishes of the same genus, is extremely soft and insipid, and has rather a wild taste, which occasions it to be disdained, when any other can be procured. Its skin is an article of trade, like that of the dog-fish. It feeds on little fishes, crustacea, and mollusca.

This multitude of fishes of every species, the greater part of which are of an excellent quality, may become an important object of industry and commerce to the inhabitants of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, as a mean of maintaining abundance in their habitations. The fishery of narrow arms of the sea, not requiring large boats, nor very expensive nets and implements, and being frequently carried on from the shore itself, the profit which it might procure would become more considerable than in any other position, and its activity, at the same time that it would afford the comforts of life, would form seamen capable of conducting vessels through the labyrinth which the group of lands and rocks render very difficult to traverse.

The large sea-polypes, although affording a food less agreeable and less wholesome than fishes, are, notwithstanding, from their abundance, a resource of some value to the Greeks, who, not being able to eat fish during the continuance of their Lents, make a great consumption of polypes in those periods of abstinence. Their sea is full of common and eight-armed cuttle-fishes, species of mollusca very numerous; they catch a tolerably large

* *Squalus stellaris*. LINN.

quantity

quantity of them, but which is not sufficient for their wants, because the fishery, as I have already remarked, is very far from having among them the degree of activity of which it is susceptible. There are annually brought to them, from the coast of BARBARY, a great many common and eight-armed cuttle-fishes, dried in the sun, after having been cut through the middle longitudinally, and they are thus obliged to purchase this lent provender, which they might procure themselves in their own country. They call the common cuttle-fish *soupia*: the back-bone of this polype becomes an article of household furniture of the Greek women; they use it by way of a pin-cushion. In some places, the Isle of SCIO in particular, the women find a more refined use for this bone of a friable substance, since it serves them to heighten their beauty; they calcine it, and reduce it to a very fine powder, with which they blacken their eyebrows.

The solid and almost osseous part of the common cuttle-fish is, for the Greek fishermen, the bait with which they usually garnish their lines, in order to take the eight-armed cuttle-fish*, which they call *ktapodi*. A lead fixed to the line carries down to the bottom of the sea the cuttle-fish bone, to which are fastened hooks; the eight-armed cuttle-fish, which keeps fast hold of the rocks by its arms or tentacula, quits them, and attracted by the whiteness of the cuttle-fish bone, comes to seize it, and gets itself hooked. Dog-fishes are frequently caught with these lines intended for catching the eight-armed cuttle-fish. The flesh of this mollusca is hard, tough, and difficult of digestion; it sometimes contracts an odour of musk, which it owes, no doubt, to the nature of the food on which the animal has lived; on being dressed, it assumes a reddish colour, which it communicates to the water and to the other ingredients

* *Sepia octopus*. LINN.

in which it is cooked. In order to soften the membranous substance, of which the body of the eight-armed cuttle-fish is formed, it is beaten for some time, or thrown repeatedly, and with force, against the rocks, and at the same time moistened with fresh water. The Greek women, charged with this business, never fail, in performing it, to eat raw the nut, that is, the mouth of the polype, and this bit is to them a sort of dainty. On some parts of the coast of PROVENCE, especially in the environs of TOULON, where a great many polypes are eaten, it is affirmed that, by cutting its flesh with a piece of large reed, it becomes less hard. In the LEVANT, and even in ITALY, these polypes are also pickled in vinegar; in short, the fragments of their substance are one of the baits of which the Greek fishermen make a rather frequent use. It sometimes happens, that being in the water, a man is seized by the arm or leg by a large polype, which clings to it so closely with its tentacula and suckers, that it would be impossible to get rid of it, did he not hasten to turn back what the fishermen call the *capuchon*, that is, the head of the animal, and this operation causes its immediate death.

The fishermen of the LEVANT are persuaded that the univalved shells, called *nautili*, serve as a habitation to polypes, and this opinion, which is met with wherever there are fishermen and polypes, does not appear doubtful. The paper *nautili* are taken in the ARCHIPELAGO. There are also found, on the coasts of the islands, sea-slugs or *tethys*, which the islanders call *cochylis*.

Numerous species of conchylia likewise add to the abundance of aliments which man draws from the sea, in countries favoured by Nature, and so abused by barbarous usurpers. Here are found the oyster, the pholas, the clam, which the Greeks call *achivada*, the whelk, *phosphira* of the Greeks, the muscle, the tellina, the little species of porcelana,

commonly called cowry, and by the Greeks *gouronnaki*, that is, little pig; the limpet, in Greek *patellida*, the *pinna marina*, or the *nacre* of the Provençals, &c.

The Greeks also make a vast consumption of sea-urchins, which are in great plenty on the coasts of their islands; there are some black, violet, purple, with the point of the spines white, some reddish, flaxen colour, and dirty white: almost all of them have the flesh of a saffron yellow; they are much fatter during the winter, and, it is added, when the moon is at the full. This latter observation had been made by the ancients*, and it has been perpetuated, though it is no easy matter to assign its cause. Another remark, which has become proverbial among the fishermen of the MEDITERRANEAN, is, that one must not go a fishing for sea-urchins when the sea beats on the shore, that is, when it is rough. This fishery is, in fact, productive only in calm weather. Sea-urchins keeping at a small depth clinging to the rocks, they are easily perceived when the sea is smooth; they are detached with a hook fixed to the end of a long stick, which is accompanied by a small piece of net, that serves to envelop the sea-urchin, and bring it out of the water, when it no longer adheres to the rock: other fishermen dive and seize them with the hand.

The large sea-urchins, whose violet colour points are tipped with white, are not eaten; their flesh is soft, black, and unwholesome. This is the case with another smaller species, black, and with very long spines. The Provençals call these urchins *Jeros*, and they consider them bad, and even dangerous to be eaten. I have sometimes seen persons amuse themselves with chewing sea-urchins whole, with their stony shell, without having their mouth hurt by the prickles, which they had the address to arrange

* *Luna alit ostrea et implet echinos.* Lucilius apud Aul. Gell, lib. xx. cap. xiii.—See also PLINY, MANILIUS, &c. &c.

in such a manner as not to be wounded by them. But several terrestrial quadrupeds devour sea-urchins with pleasure and avidity.

Sea-nettles, with which the surface of the rocks, bathed by waters not much agitated, is frequently covered, are a very common article of food with the Greek islanders, especially during Lent. They call this zoophyte, *kolitfiano*.

In the spring, the sponge-fishers spread themselves in the ARCHIPELAGO. These zoophytes, placed at the last link of animated beings, are very common on the sunken rocks of these seas, and they there constitute a branch of commerce. The fishermen detach them from the stones to which they cling, either by diving, or with hooks fixed on long poles; but in whatever manner this fishery be carried on, it requires serene weather and a calm sea, which may allow of distinguishing the sponges at the bottom of the water.

Several species of crustacea are there equally common, particularly the crab, *kavoura* of the Greeks, the *poupart*, or *koutsonna*, the spider-crab, or *kavour ou mana*, that is, the mother of the crabs; Bernard the hermit, or the hermit-crab, the granulated crab*, the *squlla gibba*, in PROVENCE, *carambot*, in GREECE, *keridia*, &c. &c. It is not my intention to enter into a minute detail of all the productions of the eastern part of the MEDITERRANEAN; this would be an undertaking of too great extent, and at the same time misplaced in a work of this description. I have only endeavoured to give an account of the marine animals the most useful to man, and to demonstrate that plenty reigns in the bosom of the sea, as Nature had fixed it on the land, before Tyranny came

* *Cancer granulatus*. LINN.

thither with her brazen arm to expel it thence, in a manner, and confine it to the waters.

Before I take leave of this sea, I shall say a word of the water-caltrops*, which is seen to float in the spring on the surface of the waves, in the ARCHIPELAGO, and to stop on the shores of the islands. This four-pointed fruit is called by the Greeks *maskoulla*; they were not able to tell me in what aquatic places of the coast it ripened in a quantity sufficiently great to spread itself over so large an extent of sea; the young islanders collect it, and amuse themselves with filling it with gunpowder, in order to make a little explosion.

In other respects, it appeared to me that this water-caltrops of the LEVANT differed a little from that which grows in a great many parts of EUROPE; which leads me to presume, with much probability, that it is the variety described in the *Hortus Malabaricus*, and which is peculiar to the EAST INDIES. MORRISON has distinguished this Asiatic variety†; and it is astonishing that LINNÆUS should not have separated it from the common species.

* *Trapa natans*. LINN.

† *Tribulus aquaticus major Indicus, candidus geniculatis, foliis amplis, numerosis, in rosæ figuram congregatis.*

CHAPTER XXXII.

Rock of Pyrgui.—Strait of Polonia.—Ruins and tombs.—Another sort of Cimolian earth.—Indications of a volcano in the Island of Milo.—Its plains.—Town of Milo.—Diseases which prevail there.—Pleurisies.—Churches.—Lady of Milo.—Dress of the women.—Their manners.—Errors on this subject.—An aperture whence issue pestiferous miasmata.—Vapour baths.—Lake of hot water.—Sulphur and alum.—Mill-stones.—Salterns.—Iron mines.—Sardonyxes.—Catacombs.

WHEN you quit the narrow and sandy shore, which is below the village of ARGENTIERA, in order to repair to the Island of MILO, situated to the south, you enter into a confined channel, between the Islets of SAN GIORGIO and SANT EUSTACHIO and the Island of ARGENTIERA itself; this channel forms the harbour for merchant-vessels. Very near to the coast, a rock projects into the sea, and although it has there opened itself a passage, the space which separates it from the island is so narrow, that it is impossible for the smallest boats to pass. On the rock, which is called *PYRGUI*, is to be seen a remnant of an ancient building; there it is, if we must credit the present islanders, that the princes of the island fixed their abode.

You then pass to the foot of the mountain, whence Cimolian earth is extracted, and you enter into a small strait that forms the separation of the Islands of MILO and ARGENTIERA, which the Greeks call *POLONIA*, and the French navigators the *PAS DE POLOGNE*. In the middle of this passage

passage, which is scarcely half a league from the one point to the other, there is a sand-bank and a few rocks, on which the sea, already pent up by coasts very close to one another, breaks with fury, and rises in noisy billows. This passage is not frequented by shipping; it is too dangerous; however, with precautions, they can clear it, and several have ventured into it; they even find a tolerably good anchorage in a bight formed by two capes of the Island of MILO, where they have seven fathoms water, and a good bottom for holding.

It is in the middle of this sort of gulf that all the boats which come from ARGENTIERA, land. On the other side, but more towards the West, facing ANTI-MILO, are discovered, on the coast of ARGENTIERA, some ruins which the Greeks call *liniko*, a word that signifies habitation of idolaters. These ruins, which I visited, no longer consist of any thing but a few tombs, dug in sandy and softish rock, the foot of which the sea washes and undermines. Opposite and at a little distance, a small shoal, which bears the name of SANT ANDREA, was formerly connected with the island, as cannot be doubted, from the shallowness of the sea between the two, there being no more than a fathom in the middle of the channel which separates them, and its bottom is covered with ruins. Among these ruins, I distinguished two large and beautiful tombs with their capitals, and the opening of a subterraneous cave in the shape of a well. The shoal even of SANT ANDREA, all the sides of which are steep and excavated by the sea, with the exception of the side on an inclined plane, which faces ARGENTIERA, still supports some fragments of ancient buildings; there are also seen passages of subterraneous galleries, in which it would be gratifying to curiosity to descend and dig, if that were practicable, without giving umbrage to a government, which has no idea of the importance of historic monuments, hidden in a soil that it profanes. Jealous, not of discoveries useful to the sciences, but of imaginary treasures

treasures which it supposes buried, it does not even endeavour, by digging, to gratify its stupid and gross cupidity, because it fancies that the European alone possesses the magic power of discovering and getting possession of gold, which cannot be drawn from the bowels of the earth but by some talisman.

Every thing announces that, in this place, a town of some importance has existed; here is still to be seen the remnant of a canal dug in the rock, into which the water of the sea enters, and which was a harbour sufficient for the small vessels of the ancients: pillars, also cut in the rock, and pieces of which are still subsisting, were placed at certain distances on the borders of the channel, and served for making fast the vessels. I was shewn a sort of place of sepulture, in which some enterprising people have dug; their trouble obtained some recompense, and they thence carried off medals, lamps, earthen vessels, little idols, and a statue in silver.

At the entrance of the Strait of POLONIA, on the coast of MILO, which faces the north-east, is extracted a sort of Cimolian earth, which differs but very little from that of ARGENTIERA; boats also come and load with it, in order to convey it to the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO: this earth is even said to be preferred to the true Cimolian earth for washing, but that it is not so proper for scowring and taking out spots. The Greeks give it no other name than that of *pilo*, which signifies clay.

When you land in the Isle of MILO, you perceive that fires, long since kindled, consume the bowels of the earth; every thing there indicates a subterraneous conflagration; and in several places, the ground, which resounds under your feet, apprizes you that it is supported by vast cavities. In one place, mountains are overthrown; in another, calcined rocks
sadden

sadden you by their shattered and blackish surface; farther on, stones and enormous pebbles attest, by their substance and colour, that they have been thrown up by the explosion of a volcano; boiling waters issue on all sides; pumice-stones are scattered about; sulphur is formed in abundance, and shews itself even on the surface of the ground.

In the midst of these effects of the action of the great conflagrations of Nature, the vegetable earth, which mostly covers the Isle of MILO, gently warmed by subterraneous heat, is very productive. Corn and cotton are there of an excellent quality, and the vines yield very good wine, as the trees do delicious fruits. Beautiful flowers there form a brilliant and natural carpet; but the plains are mostly abandoned to sterility: the quantity of lands lying fallow announces an excessive diminution in the population, as well as the criminal indifference of the government. The town of MILO, situated in an agreeable plain which leads to the head of the harbour, is no longer any thing but a heap of ruins, where a small number of Greeks still struggle against the danger incurred by inhabiting it. Of five thousand persons that *TOURNEFORT* reckoned there, we should scarcely find, in our days, two hundred, and almost all of them too in a state of languor which inspires pity. The bad quality of the waters which are there drunk, and the still more pernicious state of an atmosphere impregnated with sulphureous and mephitic exhalations, corrupt the blood and humours, make this town a very dangerous abode, and have converted it into a desert. Strangers even dread to make there a momentary stay, particularly during the hottest part of the summer, and these pernicious effects are felt even on board the vessels at anchor in the harbour.

Almost all the inhabitants of this unfortunate town have their legs swelled; they are, during the summer, subject to fevers, either intermittent

mittent or flow, which occasion them obstructions soon incurable. After the hot weather, pleurifies make great ravages, and the quinsy also carries off several persons, when the very supportable colds of the winter are felt. It is asserted, that bleeding has been observed to be there mortal in pleurifies, if it be recurred to before the third day of the malady, and that of all those who are bled on the first and second day, not one escapes. However, the pleurisy is the most common disorder in these countries, whenever the southerly wind, blowing constantly, renders the winters very mild; and every where the same opinion is entertained as at MILO, on the subject of bleeding.

The town of MILO appears to have been well built; but its houses, at present entirely decayed, announce the desolation by which it is afflicted. The French Capuchins had here a very handsome convent; they have abandoned it, and it is in complete ruins. It is said that, in this place, there were formerly a great many catholics; there no longer remains a single one, and the apostolical vicar that is continued to be appointed, without a flock as without a wish to be exposed to disorders, has retired to ARGENTIERA, where his congregation is scarcely more considerable, but where at least he breathes a pure air. The Latin church, consecrated to Saint COSMO and Saint DAMIANO, has fallen away with catholicism. The principal temple of the Greeks, dedicated to Our Lady of the Port, constructed in 1664, is by no means large, but tolerably handsome; the walls are covered with paintings, representing the history of the Old and New Testament. In another Greek church, called *Agio Karalobos*, is seen an *ex voto*, presented by the skipper of a French bark, about eighty years ago: it is a piece of the keel of his vessel, pierced by a large cetaceous fish, which there left a considerable fragment of its tooth. The navigator discovered it in careening his ship in a harbour of the MOREA, and hastened to deposit it at MILO, as a mark

of his gratitude towards Heaven, that had preserved him from the danger to which he had been exposed, through the efforts of this marine animal. The Greeks, who consider this circumstance as a miracle, have caused to be painted on this piece of wood the image of the Virgin, and to this they attach so great a value, that it would be in vain to attempt to purchase it.

At the time when I visited MILO, there lived in that town a lady very rich, and who enjoyed great influence. *KIERA PREGOULINA*, this is the lady's name, was mother to *MAVROYANI*, then drogouman to the famous Admiral *HASSAN Pacha*, since invested with the principality of MOLDAVIA, and afterwards beheaded, according to the custom of a government, which scarcely ever fails to deprive of life and fortune those in whom it seemed to have the greatest confidence. Madame PREGOULINA was extremely polite to strangers, and to the French in particular: her garden was tolerably agreeable, and the artichokes which grew there in great abundance, appeared to me the best that I ever ate in my life. Being rather an elderly woman, she lived in retirement, although she might have resided at CONSTANTINOPLE, and there made a figure; her health did not appear affected by the malignant influence of a residence at MILO, and she assured me, on this occasion, that the women suffered from it much less than the men.

She wore, like all her countrywomen, the strange dress of the females of ARGENTIERA, a dress devoid of taste or grace, and which, so far from being advantageous to beauty, is, on the contrary, extremely unfavourable to it. This manner of dressing is said to be derived from the highest antiquity, and to have been brought from SPARTA to MILO, which is, as is well known, a Lacedemonian colony, whence it has been spread, with various changes, into the neighbouring islands. But the
literati

literati the most versed in ancient history positively affirm, that the dress of the Spartan girls was very indecent, and that they were called *phénomèrides*, because they had not even the upper part of the knee covered. However the dress of the women of MILO, disgusting and grotesque as it is, does not offend decency, since it exactly envelops every part of the body, and is faulty rather through a contrary excess, by giving, in general, a monstrous size, by causing the shape to disappear, and by spoiling the most beautiful forms; so that "these ladies," says TOURNEFORT, "whatever charms they may have, are only fit to be represented "as skreens or fans*."

These MILO women have been described under the same traits of an excessive gallantry as those of ARGENTIERA: it is extremely probable that people have been formerly mistaken concerning both, and this imputation is at present a calumny. How could coquetry fix its abode in the midst of a desert infected by pestilential miasmata, and which strangers dread to frequent? We find, nevertheless, in modern works traces of an old opinion, which the slightest observation must destroy. An Englishman presumes that these women of MILO "equal their mothers in their liberality "towards mariners, who are driven by storms to take refuge in their port; "a mode of conduct which, perhaps, might have afforded HOMER the idea of his CALYPSO†," but Mr. IRWIN had not seen MILO but from the deck of his ship, where the monotony of the voyage was enlivened by stories. It is from the same source that he derived the information which he has published respecting the women of ARGENTIERA, and which he would have done better to have left where he found it: but what he says of them is sufficiently curious for me to relate here, as a proof to be added to a

* *Voyage au Levant*, vol. i. 4to. page 150.

† Irwin's Travels, vol. ii. page 231.

thousand others, of the inconveniences to which we are exposed when we relate from hearsay. This traveller first repeats what others had repeated before him, that ARGENTIERA is still more notorious than MILO for the licentiousness of its inhabitants, "and seems to be a general "feraglio, if travellers are to be credited, for the mariners of the LEVANT:" but he adds, what no one had said before, that these seamen of the LEVANT "are bound to leave their offspring for the benefit of the "mothers, that the boys at an early age are sent to sea, and that the "girls, in due time, supply the place of their virtuous parents!" This is not yet all, and the following is an observation quite new, which belongs to Mr. IRWIN, and which no one will be tempted to dispute with him. "The inhabitants of ARGENTIERA," says he, "are entirely females, "except a priest or two, who give them absolution for their sins*." Who will absolve the traveller for having told us such tales?

At some distance from the town of MILO, I was shewn an aperture in the ground, whence issued vapours so destructive, that by placing an animal only at the mouth of this vent-hole it fell dead on the spot: some persons, no less rash than ignorant, had attempted to descend into it, and had there perished. M. DE CHOISEUL GOUFFIER, as I was informed, persuaded the inhabitants, that from this subterraneous gallery emanated the exhalations which had made of their town a field of disorders and death. They have stopped it up; but the deleterious miasmata having apparently other issues, the atmosphere is not, on that account, less infected.

At a little more than half a league to the south of the town, there are hot baths, or rather a natural bagnio, formed by a spring of boiling

* IRWIN'S Travels. vol. ii. pages 231 and 232.

water. Buildings constructed round this spring, formerly served for lodging the patients, who came hither from all quarters; these buildings have undergone the fate common to every thing beautiful or useful, that existed in countries, whose soil has been for a long time covered with ruins and with all the hideous symptoms of destruction. There now remains only a little arched gallery, at the extremity of which a stone bench served as a seat to a single person; one cannot sit there without being presently covered with sweat, and experiencing a suffocating heat. The water which forms this bagnio, situated on a hill, runs under ground towards the shore, and it is found again under the sand of the harbour; it there exhales a strong smell of sulphur, deposits an ochre-coloured sediment, and is seen to bubble up again at the bottom of the sea, at the distance of ten or twelve feet from the beach.

At no great distance, and to the north of the baths, is met with a cavern, formed in a rock of a consistence light and almost friable, at the extremity of which is a small lake of hot water, but whose heat is sufficiently moderate to admit of a person bathing; and in it there are no more than from two to four feet water. The walls of this cavern are covered with a thick coat of nitre, which is formed there naturally.

These baths are salutary effects of the general conflagration of the inside of the island; their use is very well calculated for the cure of diseases of the skin, palsy, and rheumatic pains. The Greeks were acquainted with them in the time of HIPPOCRATES, who sent thither patients, and some still come there in our days to seek relief for their complaints. But these sorts of favours of a frightful combustion cannot enter into comparison with the crowd of disorders, which, owing to it their origin, spread themselves over a soil, from which they seem soon likely to drive away mankind; for their fatal influence seems to increase with time, and
has

has reached districts, which, not long since, were secure from it. 'Tis even only within a century that it has assumed this character of malignity which had not been felt by the ancients. In fact, their writings are filled with the encomiums which they bestow on the Isle of MELOS, on the abundance of its productions, and its incomparable fertility*; but they make no mention of the insalubrity of the air that is there breathed.

It is one of the largest and most elevated islands of this southern part of the ARCHIPELAGO: PLINY has said that it was likewise the roundest of all†: it is about twelve leagues in circumference. The sulphur which was drawn from it was reckoned the best, and its alum was the most esteemed after that of EGYPT. The ancients attributed to this MILO alum the property of preventing women from conception, and DIOSCORIDES does not hesitate to make this assertion‡. Native sulphur is still very abundant there, and even makes its appearance on the surface of the ground; but it is no longer an article of trade any more than alum, although their extraction, from its great facility, occasioned scarcely any expense. We cannot be astonished at this neglect, when we reflect that several other branches of commerce, much more important, have been abandoned in countries of which they would still constitute the wealth, durst the inhabitants turn them to account.

Rock alum is commonly found at MILO, in natural excavations, where it is formed in abundance, and more beautiful and more pure than the salt of the same species, produced by our art. I entered into one of

* THEOPHRASTUS, in extolling the prodigious fecundity of the soil of MILO, adds, that vegetation is there so vigorous, that wheat, or any other grain which is sown, ripens at the expiration of thirty days, which is too difficult to be believed.

† Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xii.

‡ Hist. Nat. lib. v. cap. cxxiii.

these spacious grottoes, heated by subterraneous fires, and situated on the declivity of a steep mountain. The rock in which it is dug is entirely calcined; the inside affords a great quantity of large pieces of alum, incrustated on the sides of the grotto, and which cannot thence be detached but by means of an iron instrument. This same salt also shews itself in efflorescence, and, in that state, it presents chrystallizations in small bunches of different configurations. Feather alum is also to be remarked there in plenty; it hangs from the roof in silky and brilliant threads. I observed that the stones of the entrance of this aluminous grotto had been burnt in such a manner, that with the fingers alone it was easy to crumble them and reduce them to powder.

Ships still come to load at MILO a great quantity of these solid lava, of which mill-stones are made, and which are conveyed into several countries of the LEVANT, and particularly to EGYPT and CONSTANTINOPLE. These mill-stone quarries were known and worked by the ancients, and as a mill-stone was called in Greek *mylias*, some of the learned have imagined that they found in this word the etymology of the name of MELOS, which was given to the island.

At the head of the harbour have been made basins, which are filled with sea-water; in these, evaporation leaves during the hot weather nothing but the salt, which there becomes chrystallized. These natural salterns have been very productive; they are at this day in a state of decay, which renders them of little profit.

The island likewise contains many mines of iron and ferruginous pyrites, but no advantage is derived from them. By the sea-side, to the left of the harbour, there is a black and ferruginous sand. Here too

were found sardonxyes, of which no more mention is made at present, because, under a formidable tyranny, a person who speaks of his riches, gives himself up to persecution, and not unfrequently to certain destruction. OLIVIER and BRUGUIERES there discovered pozzolana, as well as at the Islands of ARGENTIERA and SANTORIN; it is certain that other valuable or useful substances would present themselves to the labours of industrious men, released from the shackles with which the present inhabitants are loaded. Under a liberal administration, the Island of MILO might even cease to be an unhealthful abode; a few precautions, a few works not very considerable, would probably be sufficient for the amelioration which Humanity claims in vain, from persons who are regardless of her voice; accordingly we must neither expect it from the government of the Turks, nor from the unfortunate people who are become their slaves, rather than their subjects.

Several subterraneous galleries are met with at some distance from the harbour; they are dug in the rock to a rather considerable depth. The descent into some of these galleries is by a winding flight of steps. To enter them is at present a very laborious task; you are obliged to crawl on your hands and knees through heaps of stones. Along the staircase are remarked small recesses made in the stone, intended, no doubt, for receiving lamps for lighting these dark and gloomy places; for there is every appearance that they were consecrated to the sepulture of the Miliots.

There are still seen other catacombs facing the latter, but not so large nor so deep. On entering them, after having walked for a few moments on an inclined plane, you meet with some wide steps, by which you ascend into a spacious hall; at the farther end is a sort of bench, cut in the rock, and round it several small rooms. The entrance of this latter
cave

cave is in a mass of stones entirely calcined; they are light and spongy, like almost all those of the island, and especially like those of the surrounding rocks, exposed to the action of a long and immense fire which all the efforts of man could not extinguish. They present on a smoking island, whose soil rests on vast burning furnaces, the image of combustion, and the symptoms of some considerable convulsion, and perhaps of total destruction.

The island of Mitylene is divided in its middle, and almost throughout its whole breadth by a deep bay, which, according to the remains of some of the ancient more than that of Paros, gives it the form of a bow. This is one of the finest harbours in the Ægean Sea, the most enough to contain a fleet, and to keep the ships belonging to it sheltered from all winds. The anchorage there is excellent; the bottom is at the very head of the gulf, a part of the calcaireous, and nearer to the east coast; anchors easily fix themselves in a fine sand; and vessels come to there in from twelve to eighteen fathoms water. Small craft can approach nearer the coast, and carry out merrily to the rocks of one of the grottoes.

Another anchorage, more convenient, and still more full, is on the west coast, in a cove called *Paros*. Ships, almost entirely land-locked, do not there feel the action of the winds, nor that of the sea from the north-west, which rolls in sometimes with a degree of violence on the beach at the head of the harbour, but cannot enter the recess, defended by an advanced point, on which rises a small rocky mountain. There it was that in 1780 the *Albanian* fleet, commanded by *Mustapha*, and consisting of upwards of thirty sail, including

CHAPTER XXXIII.

Harbour of Milo.—Cove of Patricha.—Engagement between the Mignonne frigate and two English cutters.—Harbour of Milo.—Sifour.—Ruins.—Anti-Milo.—Purgative water.—Aluminous water.—Earthquakes.—Cold.—Storm.—Remedies for the bite of serpents.—Pfylli.—Serpents.

THE Island of MILO is divided in its middle, and almost throughout its whole breadth, by a deep bay, which, according to the remark of some of the ancients, more just than that of PLINY, gives it the form of a bow. This is one of the finest harbours in the MEDITERRANEAN, spacious enough to contain a fleet, and to keep the ships belonging to it sheltered from all winds. The anchorage there is excellent; the most common is at the very head of the gulf, abreast of the catacombs, and nearer to the east coast: anchors easily fix themselves in a fine sand; and vessels come to there in from twelve to eighteen fathoms water. Small craft can approach nearer the coast, and carry out moorings to the rocks of one of the grottoes.

Another anchorage, more convenient, and also more still, is on the west coast, in a cove called *PATRICA*. Ships, almost entirely land-locked, do not there feel the action of the winds, nor that of the sea, from the north-west, which rolls in sometimes with a degree of violence on the beach at the head of the harbour, but cannot enter this recess, defended by an advanced point, on which rises a small rocky mountain. There it was that, in 1780, the *MIGNONNE* frigate, commanded by D'ENTRE-CASTEAUX, and escorting a convoy of upwards of sixty sail, sustained

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an engagement against two English cutters, which came thither to attack her.

The convoy had met with these two cutters in the canal of MALTA; they followed it, and, during the night, threw it into confusion. The frigate not being able to check them both at once, when she made sail after the one, the other threatened the merchant-vessels in another quarter; the great guns even becoming useless, they would have hurt none but our own ships; and it was considered as a proof of the activity, and, at the same time, of the skilfulness of the manœuvres of the *MIGNONNE*, that six ships only had fallen into the hands of the enemy; but he did not long preserve them. The convoy, having entered the ARCHIPELAGO, seemed to run under full sail towards SMYRNA: the English cutters, which outailed it, were ahead, and expected to make fresh attacks during the night. Their prizes were following them. Already this fleet of hostile vessels, which seemed to sail in company, had passed beyond the mouth of the harbour of MILO, when the *MIGNONNE*, after having commanded by signals different evolutions, ordered her convoy to make the best of its way into port; and by this manœuvre she was placed between the cutters and the convoy, and very near to the captured vessels. The latter, which for the most part were not manned by the enemy, hastened to approach the frigate; and the largest, on board of which the English had put an officer and thirteen men, was retaken, without the enemy, who was too far distant, being able to afford her assistance. The convoy anchored in the cove of PATRICHIA: the next morning, thinking ourselves in safety in a harbour belonging to a neutral nation, we were preparing to take a walk on shore; already had some officers set out, early in the morning, on a shooting party, when we perceived in the offing the two cutters standing in for the bay. They entered it, in fact; but though we could not imagine that it was for the purpose of attacking us, we took the pre-

cautions which prudence required: the frigate clapped a spring on her cable, and in this position she covered the whole of the merchant-ships lying in the cove.

Each of the enemy's vessels was stronger than the *MIGNONNE*, not perhaps in point of men, whose number became useless to us on this occasion; neither were they so from the number of guns, but from the calibre of the pieces, which, on board the French frigate, were only eight-pounders, whereas the cutters had twelve-pounders mounted. We had every reason to think that these vessels would cast anchor in the head of the gulf; but they had no such intention: they kept under sail, abreast of the frigate, making boards, and putting about, the one after the other, under her stern, close enough to touch the ensign that was there flying. These reiterated insults were to be considered as insolent provocations, and as a real attack on the part of audacious people, regardless of the rights of nations. It was impossible to tolerate longer such outrages to the honour of the flag: we fired; and what proved to us that the enemy had had no other intention than of forcing us to commence hostilities, as if they consisted only in gun-shots, was, that at the very instant of our first broadside, she returned it with incredible promptitude and briskness. The action began with considerable obstinacy: we had to sustain successively the fire of four tiers of guns, and we had but one to oppose to them, since the other was turned towards the shore; and, indeed, two guns of the acting broadside were for the most part in a state of inaction, because they were masked by a tongue of land. But our artillery was better served; it had also the advantage of firing from a fixed point, while the shot of the enemy's vessels, always under sail, became more uncertain. In short, after four hours' action, the cutters, very roughly handled, sheered off, and left the harbour, to re-appear there no more.

more. We learnt afterwards, that they had lost a great many men, and that, ready to sink, they had been forced to undergo a repair.

I must not omit a trait which may give an idea of the want of delicacy, I had almost said of the ferocity, of the officers who commanded these cutters. Our midshipmen, who were on a shooting excursion, hastened, at the report of the first gun, to approach the beach: we could not send the boat for them during the action, and they seated themselves on the rocks in the middle of the coast, simple spectators of the engagement. Impelled by the mortification of seeing the miscarriage of their enterprise, no less rash than contrary to the laws of war, the enemy had the meanness to direct against these youths, whom he knew by their uniform, several broadsides, which covered them with splinters of rock.

After so manifest an outrage against the laws of nations and humanity, we were to expect fresh enterprises on the part of the English. D'ENTRECASTEAUX commissioned me to erect a battery on the top of the hill, at the foot of which the frigate was at anchor: we dismounted the guns from the side of the ship that faced the land; and they were dragged over a steep surface, thickly strewn with rocks, with that transport of courage which distinguishes French warriors, and presently the rock was transformed into a fortlet capable of resisting ships of war.

These precautions removed not the apprehensions of D'ENTRECASTEAUX; he dreaded an assemblage of superior force, and even the treachery of the Greeks: during the night, he caused the guns to be hastily re-embarked, and the flotilla to make a retrograde movement, by conducting it under the cannon of the fort of SUDA, in the Island of CANDIA. I had joined the *MIGNONNE* in the cove of PATRICHA; and, since her departure, I followed

followed her destination, and no longer quitted her. But I return to the Isle of MILO.

The entrance of the harbour faces the north-west. It is very wide, and ships may, without risk, approach very near to the coasts by which it is formed. They have on the starboard hand, or to the right, Cape *VANI*; and to the left, Cape *LAKIDA*: the gulf then contracts between Cape *SAN DIMITRI* and Cape *BOMBARDA*. On the latter, a high mountain, formed like a sugar-loaf, bears at its summit a village, to which has been given the name of *SIFOUR*; it is surrounded by walls, which have obtained it the epithet of castle, in Greek *castro*, although, with the exception of this simple and feeble enclosure, it affords nothing that resembles a fortress. It is at *SIFOUR* that the pilots for the *ARCHIPELAGO* reside. The air there is pure and wholesome; the pestilential vapours of the plain do not reach it with destructive influence: accordingly this place is more populous than the capital of *MILO*; and the inhabitants exhibit, throughout their whole exterior, the signs of vigour and health, in which their unfortunate countrymen are deficient.

From the top of this narrow mountainous point, on which is built the steep village of *SIFOUR*, the view embraces a vast extent: on the one side it discovers the mountains of *ATTICA*, the fields of *ARGOS*, and the lands of ancient *LACONIA*; to the south, the celebrated mountains of *CRETE*; and, on the other quarters of the horizon, the numerous Islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, which seem to float on the waters. There is every appearance that, formerly, the principal place of the Isle of *MILO* was towards the site of *SIFOUR*, since all the ancient habitations of the *ARCHIPELAGO* are built on eminences the most lofty, and whose access is the most rugged. Quarrels incessantly reviving between one tribe and another, induced the necessity of being continually prepared against an enemy

enemy, whose principal tactics, according to the genius of the whole nation, consisted in cunning and surprise, and his approach was easily discovered from the top of mountains which no other commands. These points of rocks, towering towards the sky, were from their situation easy to defend, and extremely well calculated to stop the enemy and repel his attacks. Besides, in a country where all religious opinions referred to theogony, the men, placed far above the level of the ground, fancied themselves nearer to the gods, and thought that they were more surely heard by them. It is only when dissensions left a few intervals, of which the arts and commerce were able to get possession, that nations approached the plains and the low coasts, where they could give themselves up, with greater comfort and success, to trade, and every kind of industry.

And what proves that the position of SIFOUR was alike inhabited by the ancients, is, that we see there considerable ruins, pieces of wall thrown down, fragments of columns of *PARIAN* marble, and subterraneous galleries; antique catacombs, where flight, but secret digging, daily brings to light funeral inscriptions, vases, idols, medals, &c. Every thing announces the remains of a considerable city. On a broad fragment of frieze is still to be read, in large characters, in very good preservation,

ΣΑΒΕΙΝΟΣΟΠΥ

that is, *SABINUS*, son of *PR*..... The remainder is wanting.

A desert islet, very elevated above the surface of the waters, appears opposite the entrance of the harbour; it is a fragment of numerous ruins of an ancient land, shattered on all sides: the Greeks call it *REMOMILO*; and our navigators, *ANTI-MILO*, or *ANTI-MILE*.

Near

Near SIFOUR, a spring, of a water almost lukewarm, and of a flat and nauseous taste, issues from an eminence towards the sea-shore. It is from this natural pharmacy that the Greeks fetch their purgative potions, and a few glasses of this water produce the effect of a medicine. This is the country for hot waters, impregnated with foreign substances: there are very few good to drink; and this scarcity of pure and wholesome water undoubtedly contributes to the disorders with which the inhabitants are overwhelmed, with the exception of those of SIFOUR, who have an opportunity of drinking limpid water.

On the side opposite to SIFOUR, that is, on the west part of the island, is found a spring of water, so loaded with alum, that it deposits that mineral on the surface of the ground which it bathes.

The inflamed vapours of the bowels of the earth are exhaled by so great a quantity of vent-holes, they remain so little concentrated in caverns, where fires are incessantly burning, that the soil of the Isle of MILO is not, as might be imagined, frequently shaken by subterraneous commotions. During the years 1779 and 1780, there were felt in the Isle of MILO, and in that of ARGENTIERA, which has always shared the political fate of the former, as it shares the effects of a vast conflagration of Nature; there were felt, I say, only two slight shocks of an earthquake: the former, during the night from the 6th to the 7th of January, in calm weather, but at the expiration of forty days of an impetuous northerly wind; the latter, on the 6th of December, during a hurricane from the south-west, which, at the very instant of the shock, veered round to the northward, blowing with equal fury. But what is remarkable, is, that both these commotions were much more perceptible in the Island of CANDIA, where some houses were overthrown, edifices damaged, and men flung on the ground. Communications, formed at immense depths,

depths, spread afar the fire with which the bowels of the globe are consumed, establish a series of galleries extending in every direction, and threatening, perhaps, the surface of the earth with new convulsions, and mankind with fresh destruction.

This same year of 1779 was also remarkable, in the ARCHIPELAGO, for the duration and violence of the north wind, and from the cold, extraordinary for these parts, which was there experienced. The mountains of the neighbouring continents were covered with a great quantity of snow; and it froze rather hard in the Islands of MILO and ARGENTIERA, where I then was. The ice, in some places, was upwards of an inch in thickness, and might be reckoned a prodigy, in a country where it may almost be said that it never freezes. The oldest inhabitants did not remember to have seen so hard a frost. There was one in the winter of 1768-69; but it was extremely slight, in comparison to that of 1779. And, indeed, the surprise of the Greeks, astonished at the sight of the various forms of the icicles suspended to the houses and the trees, was truly pleasant: they broke off the fragments which appeared to them most curious, carried them along the streets on dishes, uttering cries of admiration; in short, they all shewed, in an unequivocal manner, that they beheld ice for the first time. It did not last long; and, in twenty-four hours, a mild sun dissipated these gloomy but transient symptoms of a severe winter, and began again to warm the earth, astonished at the cold to which it was a stranger.

Impetuous winds, hurricanes, and extraordinary meteors, likewise distinguished, in the LEVANT, the year 1779. This derangement of the atmosphere was, doubtless, owing to distant causes, with which I was not acquainted, such as violent commotions, or great convulsions in some parts of the globe. The sea participated in this state of derange-

ment of the air and temperature: shipwrecks covered with their remains the waves, raised by the strength of the winds. At the beginning of a winter so rough, and presenting several phenomena, I was witness of the most violent storm that I ever beheld in my life: it took place at two o'clock in the afternoon, during my stay at ARGENTIERA. The wind blew first from the south-west with great force; the sky was overcast, and the rain had been almost continual: the clouds had become less thick from ten o'clock in the morning; but the arc of the horizon to the south-west was blackened, in a frightful manner, with clouds heaped up, precursors of the storm. The wind presently shifted to that quarter; an almost total darkness was spread over the atmosphere, and mountains of clouds, of a greenish tint, advanced with rapidity; long streams of fire divided them in every direction, and the thunder never ceased to roar, but in a hollow manner, and without claps. A water-spout, whose form was that of a cylinder widened at both ends, joined the sea to the clouds; the waters boiled up at its base, which I estimated at a quarter of a league in circumference, and it moved with extreme swiftness. When arrived over the islands, the storm became terrible: the impetuosity of the wind shattered several wind-mills; thunder roared on all sides; a frightful shower of hail, the stones of which were of the size of a common walnut, fell with a dreadful force: Nature appeared on the point of being swallowed up in an abyss, and consternation reigned in every mind. A deluge of rain succeeded this scene of terror; and the wind, which flew to the north, drove the remains of the tempest towards other shores.

During the short time that I passed at SIFOUR, I saw a child that had, three or four hours before, been bitten by a viper, or a venomous snake, in the small of the leg: it was brought to me, under the idea that I might afford it some assistance. The leg and foot were much swelled, very hard, and

of a bluish colour: the child suffered great pain; the wound no longer appeared, and the place was not to be distinguished but by a larger swelling, and by pains more acute, which were occasioned by touching it. I had experienced on several occasions, and particularly at GUIANA, where snakes are equally numerous and formidable, the efficacy of *eau de Luce* as a preservative against their venom. I made the child swallow a few drops of it, in half a glass of wine; and, after some scarifications on the part bitten, I applied to it a compress, steeped in this same water, which is known to be composed of volatile alkali and oil of amber. Four hours after, the swelling was considerably diminished; the child no longer felt any pain, and was in the most tranquil state. I renewed the compress of *eau de Luce*, and dismissed the little patient, at the same time recommending that he might not be disturbed, and, above all, that no sort of remedy might be administered to him.

But these recommendations were vain: scarcely had the child left the house that I inhabited, before some old women, exercising empiricism exclusively, persuaded the father of the little patient that the remedies of the *Franks* were good for nothing, and even might be pernicious to Orientals. It is to be remarked, that this is precisely the language of the fanatic and haughty Mahometan, who, at once proud and ignorant, alike disdains men and things that are foreign to his religion and his customs; but it is not astonishing that the slave should hold the same language as the tyrant.

The advice of the old female empirics was attended to: the child was asleep; it was awakened; the compress of *eau de Luce* was taken off. The wound was laid open with a razor, and two ligatures were made, the one on the calf of the leg, and the other on the middle of the thigh, with two small cords drawn so tight, that the unfortunate child, who

was thus left to pass the night, had the next morning so extraordinary a swelling on the thigh and leg, that the ligatures were over-hung and covered by the flesh, which was hard, inflamed, and so excessively painful, that a fly, which alighted on the leg, caused the patient to vent loud cries. A burning fever, attended with delirium, tormented him; and his state of danger had decided the parents to bring him to me again, contrary to the advice of the cruel female physicians. My first care was to cut the cords, whose effect made me tremble; but when, on examining the wound, I found that the flesh had been cut with so little precaution that the muscle was injured; that, moreover, there had been applied to the wound a cataplasm, which had brought on suppuration; and that, regard being had to the excessive state of inflammation of the leg and thigh, and to the great heat of the atmosphere, this suppuration might be attended by the most serious consequences, I dismissed the patient, and would have no more to do with him.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable result of this accident, it is certain that the ligatures, slashes rather than scarifications, and suppurative plasters occasioned all the mischief, since the swelling was considerably diminished, and the pain entirely removed, by the use of *eau de Luce* applied as a topic, and taken internally; and this is an effect which it fails not to produce, when it is opportunely resorted to in similar circumstances.

The remedies which the Greeks commonly employ for curing the bite of snakes, consist in cataplasms of emollient plants, calculated to promote suppuration. Sow-thistle is reckoned among them to possess particularly a specific virtue against this sort of venom. But this treatment is very long; it frequently lasts two months, and never less than one; neither is it always successful, and death pretty frequently carries off the patient

tient from the torments which this mode of treatment causes him to suffer.

The EAST was at all times the country of magicians: men, boasting to have the power of charming serpents, of braving their bite and their venom, of rendering them docile to their voice, formerly existed there under the name of Pfylli; and there are still to be found people who pretend to have inherited their secrets. I knew one of those versed in this kind of fascination; he was certainly the most ignorant and most foolish of the Greeks: his secret principally consisted in thirteen words, which it was necessary to pronounce in sight of the serpents. He told me also, that, in order to guard against the bite of these reptiles, it was necessary to try to take one alive, with the precaution of seizing it strongly by the neck, so as to prevent it from biting, and not to concern myself about its body and tail, the twistings of which lightly squeeze the arm. You must then slip round its neck a running knot, made with coarse thread, and draw it tight by degrees, till the animal is strangled. When it is on the point of dying, you open it, and take out its fat, with which you rub your hands: then my modern pphyllus said to me, "You have nothing more to fear from the bite of every species of serpent."

Though I have been assured, and have every reason to believe, that serpents are common in the Islands of GREECE, I never met with any, so that I cannot say what are the species that are there to be found: there are, as I was told, some very large, and upwards of seven feet long. These reptiles, several of which distill from their canine teeth a very subtle venom, retire into holes, under stones and ruins, during the winter: they reappear in the spring, and even introduce themselves into the

the houses. At this period, the inhabitants look for the skin which they have cast; and, by wearing it on their hat, they imagine themselves secure from their bite. It is also asserted, that, to drive them away from the houses, it is sufficient to burn there hartshorn, the smell of which, it is said, is to them insupportable.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

Island of Policandro. — Isle of Sikino. — Panagia of Cardioliffa. — Island of Siphanto. — Its mines; its productions; its inhabitants. — Goat. — Strongylo and Despotico. — Antiparos. — Grotto of Antiparos. — Island of Paros. — Its harbours. — Road of Nauffa. — Establishment of the Russians in that road.

IF, from the Isle of MILO, you sail to the eastward, inclining a little towards the south, you soon meet with the Island of *POLICANDRO*, which is distant from it only seven or eight leagues. It formerly bore the name of *PHOLEGANDROS*, and to this the poet *ARATUS* added the epithet *ferrea*, in order to give, in a single word, the idea of its soil, rugged, stony, and, as it were, composed of iron. The coast affords no harbour to ships which approach it; its population is by no means numerous, and confined in a village enclosed by walls, and near which rises very high a rock of a frightful aspect. The vine, which grows there between the stones, yields good wine; but agriculture finds few spaces which are suitable to it. In a few districts corn and cotton are cultivated, and with this latter commodity tolerably fine cloths are manufactured. Game delights in this rugged soil, and birds of passage make it their principal rendezvous in their regular migrations.

Further on is *SIKINO*, an island nearly of the same size as *POLICANDRO*, but of a soil less rugged and more fertile. The ancients called it

ZIKENOS

ZIKENOS and *SYCINUS*, from *SYKINUS*, son of a nymph and of *THOAS* king of *LEMNOS*. It was also called *ÆNOË*, the wine island, on account of the fertility of its vineyards, and the excellence of its grapes. There is no harbour; the boats of the country stop at the lower part of the town, on a very narrow sandy beach, on which their crews are obliged to draw them on shore between two enormous masses of rocks, perpendicular, and, as it were, suspended above the waters of the sea. The town or village, enclosed by walls like almost all those of the same countries, is built on one of these enormous rocks, and the population, notwithstanding the goodness of the soil of the island, is there scarcely more considerable than at *POLICANDRO*, because the same causes or the same vices of administration prevail in this place, as well as in the other islands.

Between *SIKINO* and *POLICANDRO* is a shoal, the remains of the lands by which they were united. A chapel dedicated to the Virgin, whither the Greeks bring their offerings on the great festivals of the year, is built on an islet which is inhabited only at the periods of these religious assemblies; it is called *PANAGIA*, or Our Lady of *CARDIO-LISSA*.

The Island of *SIPHANTO* lies to the north of *ARGENTIERA*, and very close to it. In former times it was flourishing, under the name of *SIPHNOS*; it was even reckoned the richest of the *ARCHIPELAGO*; on account of the gold and silver mines which had there been discovered, and the tenth alone of which furnished the temple of *APOLLO* at *DELPHOS* with the richest treasure that had been seen. These mines dishonour the *Siphnians*, at the same time that they enrich them; and as if a too great opulence could not exist without corruption of morals and duplicity of character,

character, these vices of depravity were so common at SIPHNOS, that they served throughout all GREECE as a term of comparison, when it was required to paint discredited morals, or perfidy of conduct.

At this day the treasures which the earth conceals in its bosom, remain unknown; they wait for wise and enlightened hands to be discovered anew, and again become a source of riches to an island which figures at present, but with less nakedness than many others, in the picture of misery common to all those countries.

The mines of gold and silver are not the only ones of SIPHANTO; there are some very abundant in lead, iron, and loadstone. Its mountains also contain quarries of very beautiful marble, and the ancients speak of a species of very soft stone, with which they made vases which were conveyed throughout all GREECE, and which are no longer known in our days; so that the Island of SIPHANTO would still be the richest of the ARCHIPELAGO, if it ceased to be subject to a government which crushes it with an iron hand. It is also one of the most agreeable and most cheerful; the air there is very pure and wholesome; the plains are adorned with the variety of dress which it owes to easy labours, and the excellent quality of their productions is another precious favour of Nature. Silk, cotton, figs, oil, wax, and a few other commodities of less importance, there compose the crops and the trade; and it is easy to judge how much they might be increased, either by other kinds of culture, or by a greater abundance in the produce. The present industry is sufficient to shew what it would become in circumstances more propitious. Fine cotton-cloths, straw-hats, &c. are there manufactured.

The inhabitants of SIPHANTO are mild and hospitable; the women are beautiful; but their dress, which too much resembles that of their female neighbours of ARGENTIERA and MILO, robs them of many of their charms.

This island has no harbours, except for small vessels; the most considerable place, which is called *SERAI*, is built on steep rocks, which leave below the town only a very small cove where boats cast anchor, because if they were surprised there by a northerly wind, they would soon be dashed to pieces on the coast: those of the country are hastily drawn on shore as soon as they are unloaded.

At SIPHANTO there was a Greek physician, whose knowledge consisted in a collection of recipes which he applied on every occasion. His countrymen had no great confidence in him; and, indeed, he spent most of his time in visiting the neighbouring islands, and there seeking patients more credulous: he was, however, an unexceptionable man, very obliging, and a great friend to the French. I saw at his residence a goat of the beautiful race which is bred at SANTORIN; it lived familiarly in his house, went every where without doing the smallest damage, and was equally well satisfied with bread, meat, salt fish, &c. &c. but it was extremely delicate in point of cleanliness; if in eating it dropped any bit, it did not pick it up; and if one presented it what it liked best at the same time holding it in one's mouth, it refused to touch its favourite food. These little facts of which I was witness, and which are a proof of the instinct of cleanliness natural to goats, and of that which they require in a state of domesticity, are not altogether uninteresting to natural history, and even to rural economy, because they serve to direct it in the manner of rearing animals, the most conformable to their habits, and consequently the

the most profitable. However, this goat belonging to the physician of SIPHANTO was extremely productive, as well from the quantity of its milk, as from the number of its kids.

On the same direction as SIPHANTO, from west to east are ranged the Islands of ANTIPAROS, PAROS, and NAXIA, all three celebrated, and still very remarkable. I do not speak of those two islets in front of the former of these islands, and detached from them, and the smallest of which, as well as the most advanced towards the west, bears the name of STRONGYLO, and the other that of DESPOTICO. They are both uninhabited; yet they are not useless, owing to the good anchorage which they afford to the largest ships, in the midst of the channel that separates them from the Island of ANTIPAROS.

This latter island, which is narrow and long, in a direction from north-east to south-east, is the ancient OLYAROS, a colony of Sidonians. Its soil, which might be better cultivated, is tolerably fertile; it is not even without agreeableness; but the tint of wretchedness, which there prevails, conceals these gifts of Nature, and no longer suffers any thing to be perceived but accumulated ills, which the breath of an administration, friendly to human nature, would soon cause to disappear.

But what renders ANTIPAROS one of the most famous islands of the ARCHIPELAGO and even in the world, is the grotto which penetrates into its bosom to a great depth, and which, according to what is related of it by the Greeks, communicates beneath the waters with some neighbouring islands; an abyss whose windings have not yet been discovered and visited, and which offers a field to observation no less extensive than curious. TOURNEFORT has described, with much exactness, the grotto

of ANTIPAROS. M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER has given some very beautiful drawings of it in his *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*; and as I could only repeat what has been said of it by those two illustrious travellers, I prefer referring the reader to their works than to copying them.

The Island of PAROS is separated only by a narrow channel from the more inconsiderable one of ANTIPAROS, of which I have just spoken. Like all the other islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, PAROS has borne several names in antiquity: it was called *MINOA*, because it was conquered by MINOS, the renowned king of CRETE; before, it was called *PACTIA*, and it has since changed its name repeatedly, till it took and at last retained that of *PAROS*, from the name of the son of JASON, or of a certain Arcadian, son of PARRHASIUS*.

Though of little extent, the Island of PAROS formerly prided itself on its power and riches. For these it was indebted to the activity of its commerce and the culture of the arts; excellent harbours favoured navigation and trade, as quarries of one of the most beautiful marbles in the world had there inspired the taste of the arts. This marble, of a dazzling whiteness, was almost reckoned a precious stone in the eyes of the ancients; gold was frequently destined to accompany it, and the gods had no temples, nor statues of a substance more esteemed. In the same place where Nature placed the substance the most in request for the chisel of the sculptor, she also gave birth to the two most celebrated artists of antiquity, and who may be considered as the geniuses to whom sculp-

* PLAN. Hist. Nat. lib. iv. cap. xiii.

ture owed its lustre. PHIDIAS and PRAXITILES were born at PAROS. Their master-pieces, the ornament of GREECE, are at present lost, mutilated, or buried under rubbish, and their descendants, whom misery and slavery have degraded, are no longer acquainted with an art which constituted the glory of their country.

The very quarries of this beautiful marble are abandoned and partly filled up. One can no longer descend but with the greatest difficulty into some of their galleries. If they were disencumbered of the stones heaped up and the earth fallen in, which obstruct them, one might reach the cavities whence issued blocks which took admirable forms under the chisel of the ancients, and whence, in all probability, will again issue those with which modern artists will represent heroes very much above the gods of antiquity.

A small town called *PARÉCHIA* has replaced the ancient city of PAROS on the west coast of the island, facing ANTIPAROS: it presents no idea of it, unless by the beautiful ruins which are employed without reserve, as without taste, in its construction. Similar fragments of magnificent monuments load, in a useless manner, almost all the territory of the island; and, in these deserted remains, art would still discover objects worthy of its admiration. Off *PARÉCHIA*, the sea forms a bight, and a harbour whose entrance is difficult, on account of the shoals by which it is obstructed on the opposite coast; the harbour of *MARMARA* has not the same inconveniences, but it is more open. Lower down on the same side, Port *TREO*, protected by three islets, affords to navigators a very convenient watering-place; and above *MARMARA*, at the north-west point of the island, Port *SANTA MARIA* is also a good anchorage. The coasts of PAROS have also other anchorages, where ships may find temporary shelter against the violence of

of the winds; but the most excellent of harbours, which will always make PAROS an island of great importance, is that of *NAUSSA* to the north-north-east. Placed in the middle of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, this harbour, not so large as that of *MILO*, is, nevertheless, more advantageous; fleets can lie there in safety, and none is more favourable for an establishment. The Russians had chosen it for the depot of their forces, and the centre of their operations; they had erected batteries to defend its entrance, constructed fortifications, and built magazines and other edifices, in order to make up for the few resources which they would have found in the little village of *NAUSSA*. Though these works were made in our time, though in 1776, *M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER* again visited them and found them still entire, the empire of destruction has in such a manner established itself in these beautiful parts of the *EAST*, that they are at present quite rased and demolished, and that if it were wished to make of the fine road of *NAUSSA* a naval and military establishment, every thing there must be re-constructed.

However, this stay of the Russians at *PAROS* has not produced there the effect that might thence be expected. Armed in appearance for the purpose of restoring to the Greeks their ancient liberty, they became their scourge; not that they had an intention of hurting a nation which it was their interest to spare, and to which they themselves bear much resemblance; but they appeared accompanied by the frightful train of war, and it is well known that, at its aspect, every kind of liberty disappears. Obligated, in foreign parts, to employ as auxiliaries undisciplined men, Albanians, exercised to robbery and excesses, these very Russians from whom the Greeks expected their emancipation, shewed themselves rather as enemies than as deliverers: the inhabitants of *PAROS*, worn out by the most cruel exactions,

tions, quitted their dwellings, and were reduced to regret Muffulman despotism. Since that period, the island is almost deserted, and this people, who were oppressed under the pretext of a false liberty, are at present on their guard against similar attempts, and we could not, without infinite difficulty, succeed in making them listen to promises more certain, and subscribe to offers more real.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Plan of a particular commerce to be established in the Islands of the Levant. — Description of the Island of Naxia. — Account of the various articles of merchandise fit to be introduced into the trade of the Archipelago.

AT the moment when peace, hastened by victory, at length yielding to the wishes of mankind, is on the point of spreading its happy influence over countries long a prey to agitation and troubles; at the moment when its benefits, so impatiently expected, are going to restore life to commerce, and a peaceable course to the channels of general prosperity; the public mind, fatigued by the sudden undulations of actions and reactions, and no longer having any uneasiness to conceive respecting the dangerous consequences of the intrigues of a few ambitious men, who have by turns disputed with each other the political scene, is going to be directed towards a laudable and useful object, and to be occupied with commercial undertakings and speculations, which, being favourable to private interest, will turn at the same time to the wealth and splendour of the country.

A war cruelly prolonged, but entirely new in history, had insulated FRANCE; all communication from without was prohibited, as well as all speculation extinguished. At present, the barrier is opened; the field of useful enterprise is enlarged and becoming immense, and every one will
be

be able to take an active part in that sort of common stock, where property will always be found by the side of active industry.

Among the efforts of commercial industry, those whose motives and object shall be to revive our rich LEVANT trade, must be placed in the first rank: but, independently of the general means of restoring to this trade its ancient splendour, there are particular ones, improperly neglected before the revolution, and which are, nevertheless, of great moment: I mean, an establishment fit for the Islands of the LEVANT. Whether these islands remain in the hands of the Turks, or whether, through a desirable revolution, they pass under a government more mild and liberal, they will equally afford great profits to those who shall make them the object of their speculations.

And the local knowledge which I have acquired, has so fully convinced me of the importance, and at the same time of the facility of such an undertaking, that I would not hesitate to contribute to it with all my means, among which, besides a perfect notion of the places, I will venture to reckon the intelligence which creates resources, the experience which suggests them, the activity which multiplies them, and lastly, the probity which applies them to common advantage.

We are not here speaking of an establishment too distant, difficult, or dangerous, nor of a commerce which requires privileges for itself, or some exclusion for others. It is in the fortunate climate of GREECE, in countries so favoured by Nature, that the barbarism of the people who have invaded them has not been able to efface their smiling aspect, nor to cause all their charms to disappear: it is in the middle of a civilized, mild, industrious nation, with which FRANCE has connexions free and quick; it is in the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, in short, that it is proposed to

establish a traffic which requires no other prerogative, on the part of the government, than authority to form it; if, however, in a state well-organized, where fraud alone ought to meet with obstacles, such an authority became necessary; nor any other protection than that to which every Frenchman is entitled, when he devotes himself to undertakings which must turn to the general advantage. It is not that, considering it in a point of view less contracted, the government might not perceive a mean of reviving the French trade to the *LEVANT*, and of counterbalancing that which the English, at this day our enemies, and always our rivals, carried on there with an advantage which had evidently increased within these few years. Under this aspect, it would have well-founded claims to the encouragement which the State owes to enterprises that so nearly concern its riches and glory.

This traffic is also of a nature neither to cause umbrage nor jealousy, since the traders of *MARSEILLES*, who, under the old order of things, had nearly the exclusive privilege of the trade of the *LEVANT*, would not even have been able to complain of competition. In fact, with the exception of the Islands of *RHODES*, *STANCHO*, and *SCIO*, in which there still existed some trace of their ancient commerce, denoted by a vice-consul without merchants, they have abandoned all the other islands, even that of *MITYLENE*, where their ships took in cargoes of olive-oil, and whence the government also withdrew its agent, upwards of twenty years ago. I shall not examine the motives which determined the reform of establishments whose utility has long appeared incontestable. Under the reign of *LOUIS XIV.* that is, at the period when the commerce of *FRANCE* enjoyed its greatest splendour, each of the Islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, of any consequence, had a French agent, who watched over the national interests, and pointed out to traders the articles from which they might derive any benefit in these same islands: but those consuls,

vice-consuls, and agents, were themselves dealers; their views were profitable, because they did not go beyond the interest of trade and navigation. All, or almost all, have been withdrawn; and the consuls of the LEVANT are become diplomatic agents, and nearly useless in countries where diplomacy is a science absolutely unknown, and where people are quite ignorant of its forms. On this subject, the reader may consult a work entitled "*Remarques sur diverses Branches de Commerce et de Navigation*," 8vo. printed in 1758. But it will not be unseasonable to indicate one of the causes which may have contributed to render these same establishments less prosperous.

The most opulent traders, who, before the revolution, sent their ships to our colonies, had no other manner of getting rid of their cargoes than of forming, in the places where they touched, storehouses, in which the colonist found daily, and in whatever quantity he pleased, the merchandise of EUROPE: he delivered, in exchange, the fruits of his culture. A little time was sufficient for the sale of the cargo arrived from FRANCE, and for completing that of the return. This method, which appears the most natural, seemed to be disdained in the markets of the LEVANT. The houses of MARSEILLES dispatched thither various goods to their employers in the different seaports. The latter sold them wholesale to the dealers of the country, who, in their turn, also sold to the French the articles which passed into FRANCE. Turkish, Greek, or Jew agents, arranged these reciprocal sales. The employer neither looked for nor saw his dealers, and he had no concern but with his *censal*: the agent, or broker, is thus called in the LEVANT. The sales and purchases were frequently delayed; a good part of the profits remained, both in the hands of the Levantine seller, and in those of the agent. Thence small cargoes, returns of little importance, slow expeditions, frequent demur-

rage,

rage, and moderate fortunes*. A few vessels, come from MARSEILLES, and bound to SMYRNA, for example, appeared to sail in ballast, although they were scarcely of sixty or eighty tons burden. It is admitted, that this method does not materially affect the aggregate of trade; and that the quantity of goods imported and exported is still nearly the same, although divided into an infinite number of channels. But the fortune of individuals is improved more difficultly; they are, consequently, not enabled, whatever activity may, in other respects, be attributed to them, to make effectual efforts or attempts of any importance; and it cannot be doubted that this sort of partial languor may have some influence on general traffic. It is with the same turn of mind that the French trade was directed in the ARCHIPELAGO. Nature, in dividing, in parcelling off, as it were, the soil of these countries into a multitude of portions, seemed to indicate the line to be followed. What is only less lucrative in the great sea-ports, became insupportable and ruinous in an island, in which a cargo, even moderate, could not be sold wholesale; and this reason alone would have been more than sufficient to induce the abandonment of similar establishments.

With other principles, we are justified in expecting profits by no means common, by trading in the ARCHIPELAGO, and on some of the neighbouring coasts, where no factory exists. The only question would be, to

* The employers attached a false pride to this sort of routine. We saw at *** a Frenchman, who had the good sense and courage not to follow the stream, and who had imagined that it was as honourable to sell a piece of cloth as to sell a whole bale: we saw him, I say, experience incredible vexation on the part of his countrymen, and not be admitted into what they called the *corps de la nation*, a pompous title, which will appear extremely ridiculous, when it shall be known that this *corps de la nation* was composed of five or six factors. It is proper to observe, that this very dealer is become the head of the principal house of the seaport where he resides; an incontrovertible proof of the success attached to the operations which he had adopted.

choose such goods as are there of certain sale, and among which some have been sold as high as six hundred per cent. profit, not to lose opportunities of procuring cheap articles in return, and to neglect nothing for extending there our speculations. Our readers must be sensible that, without banishing sales and purchases by wholesale, when circumstances shall be favourable, retail traffic would form the basis of the undertaking, because, in fact, it is, in this situation, not only more profitable, but also more admissible.

It would be superfluous to enter into a minute detail of all the operations which are connected with the execution, or which spring from it; but it will be sufficient to give some development to the principal dispositions which are to direct the undertaking, and insure its success.

The choice of the island is one of the most important points. In order that every advantage might be found united, it would be necessary that this island, situated in the centre of the ARCHIPELAGO, should join to a numerous population the comfort of its inhabitants; that its ports should be alike frequented by European ships, and by the small craft of the country; that, in short, the state and distribution of its territory should afford facilities for forming an establishment. No island, in particular, possesses at once all these elements of prosperity; but their intercourse with each other renders them, in a manner, common to all. The large Island of Scio seems, at first sight, to command the preference: a town well-built and flourishing, the urbanity of its inhabitants, manufactories of velvet and other silk stuffs, a harbour into which enters a crowd of vessels, plains covered with villages and embellished by their culture and fertility, the silk, wax, honey, mastic, turpentine, wines, and fruits, which they produce—every thing appears to make the scale turn

in

in favour of *Scio*. But this island is situated too far to the northward; its vicinity to *SMYRNA* would render trade less advantageous: besides, the position of its town, at no great distance from the principal cities of the Ottoman empire, the sedition, insurrections, and political commotions of which are felt, on a radius somewhat prolonged; its disorderly garrison of janizaries and marines; the Turks who reside there, and pass there, are so many circumstances which sometimes expose its tranquillity.

If we cast our eyes on the southern part of the *CYCLADES*, we discover a vast road, the ordinary anchorage of ships which navigate in these seas: it is formed by the Islands of *MILO*, *ARGENTIERA*, and *POLIVO*, the *BURNT ISLAND* of the Europeans. There it is that intercourse with *FRANCE* would be the most frequent; but the air of *MILO* is so unwholesome, that it is dangerous to make there any stay. The temperature of *ARGENTIERA* is salubrious; but the only village standing there is so circumscribed, the houses which compose it are so mean, that one would have some difficulty in finding a convenient lodging. *POLIVO* is uninhabited. On the other hand, these three islands are at too great a distance from the centre of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, which it is important to occupy.

It is, therefore, nearly in the middle of this group of islands that it is proper to stop, and every consideration unites in favour of *NAXIA*, formerly *NAXOS*. It is the largest of the *CYCLADES*, and its fertility, still more than its extent, has occasioned it to be called the *QUEEN*. It was formerly a powerful republic. The same spirit of liberty which reigned among their ancestors, has been propagated to the modern Greeks: enslaved under the brazen yoke of Mussulman despotism, they have found means to preserve, at least, the forms of a free state. They are governed by magistrates chosen from among themselves; no Turk
there

there establishes his domination, and this is not one of the smallest allurements of NAXIA. It is, in a word, the most agreeable, and at the same time the most tranquil island of the ARCHIPELAGO. Persecutions are there more rare; and, what does not commonly happen either in other islands, every one there enjoys his fortune in tolerable tranquillity. The ancients, on account of the fecundity of its territory, compared it to SICILY; and, when they spoke of the delicious wine which it produced, they assimilated it to the nectar of the gods. Limpid waters traverse it in every direction, and roll into its plains coolness and abundance. Those trees which are to us delicate articles of expense and luxury, such as the orange-tree, the lemon-tree, the pomegranate-tree, there grow without culture; their flowers perfume the pure air that is breathed, and their fruits acquire an exquisite flavour. Olive-trees, mulberry-trees, fig-trees, planted here and there, add to the varied productions of the earth, diversify the sites, and embellish the landscapes. Other trees of every size, whose verdure never fades, there form natural groves and agreeable shades. Vines, which still yield an excellent wine, recall to mind that NAXIA was formerly consecrated to BACCHUS. Considerable flocks of sheep brouze on the odoriferous plants which clothe the declivity of the mountains; hares and red partridges, by procuring the amusement of shooting, augment the resources of the table; fish is in great plenty; and provisions of every sort are at a very low price. The Jesuits, who knew so well how to choose their residence, had given the preference to this island of the ARCHIPELAGO: they there possessed a house in the town, and one more handsome in the country; and this circumstance, in the eyes of whoever was acquainted with the turn of mind of those ancient monks, who discerned, with so much sagacity, the best points of the countries where they succeeded in extending their colossal order; this circumstance, I say, would convey a good idea of NAXIA.

The

The principal inhabitants, the remains of those ancient families of FRANCE, SPAIN, and ITALY, which had established themselves in different parts of GREECE, at the time of the conquests of the princes of the WEST, have there preserved the urbanity and noble and generous manners of their origin; and one is astonished to find again, in those Greeks of recent date, affability and politeness, the fruits of a careful education. The women, full of charms, are also full of amiable qualities. There was one whose beauty, famous at the period of my travels, would have been equally so in all times and in all places.

Although NAXIA has no ports fit for the reception of vessels of a certain size, its coasts, nevertheless, afford tolerably good places of shelter against contrary winds; and the small craft of the ARCHIPELAGO are continually putting into several of its coves. On the other hand, the principal town, which also bears the name of NAXIA, and off which vessels may cast anchor in a roadstead, is at a very small distance from the much-frequented harbours of the eastern side of the Island of PAROS, and in particular of the capital road of NAUSSA, of which I have spoken in the preceding article. To the south of NAXIA, another road which is called the *road of the Salterns*, or *Port STRONGIOLI*, may also receive shipping in the summer. In short, the situation of the Island of NAXIA, its population, its fertility, and its charms, form an assemblage of inappreciable advantages which would with difficulty be met with elsewhere.

It would be an easy matter to procure there the necessary lodgings and places; and, whether purchased or hired, they might be had equally cheap. A storehouse would contain the articles, the sale of which would be the most rapid and most lucrative. The purchasers might be left at liberty to pay either in money, or, what would be better, in the productions of the country, which the islanders would part with at a moderate price,

price, in order to provide themselves with our merchandise we should, besides, be enabled to take advantage of every circumstance for purchasing, as cheaply as possible, the territorial productions which barter might not furnish. This double operation would also double the profits.

The commodities which the Island of NAXIA itself would furnish, are wine, corn, cotton, silk, oil, fruit, salt, emery, &c. It is asserted that, besides quarries of very beautiful marble, it contains mines more rich in gold and silver. It would not be to that only that the arrangements would be confined; this would, in some measure, be no more than the accessory, or rather the motive; and industry would have other means of extending itself in a suitable manner.

1. It has been said that the small craft of the ARCHIPELAGO and of the coasts of GREECE frequently put into NAXIA; the establishment would not fail to attract thither a greater number. These boats are conducted by trading Greeks, and they would take at the storehouse parcels of goods in order to convey them for sale into the other islands, and to the neighbouring coasts of ASIA and EUROPE. Obligated at present to make their purchases at SMYRNA, SALONICA, and in the other factories, where they buy from the second, and frequently from the third hand, they would find it more to their advantage to provide themselves at NAXIA; on the one hand, economy in the purchases; and on the other, a saving in the duration, the expenses and the dangers of the voyage. An important remark, which is of a nature to interest the commercial men of FRANCE, and consequently her government, is that the Greek merchants in the large sea-ports, preferred taking off English and Venetian goods which were become cheaper than ours, and, I must add, of a superior quality; for, to speak only of the woollen-cloths, there had,

within these few years, been introduced so blameable a negligence and parsimony in the manufacturing of those intended for the LEVANT trade, that they were disdained by the Orientals.

2. It would be very useful to have one and even several *caïques*, for the carrying-trade from island to island, and from the latter to the adjacent coasts; they would collect in the emporium the commodities which those islands and those coasts furnish, and they would carry thither French merchandise. These little vessels belonging to Frenchmen, would be respected by the Maltese privateers, and by those of other nations, which have adopted the strange and impolitic system of a perpetual war with the Mussulmans. They would afford a safe passage and inviolable protection to the Turks and Greeks, who would hasten to freight them in order to trade in seas where they run great risks, at the same time that they pay exorbitant duties of freight and commission. Such an uninterrupted carrying-trade would yield a great return; and if, in the sequel, it were wished to give it greater increase, it would be proper to purchase a Bermudian sloop, of the burden of fifty or sixty tons. This sloop might also be made use of for voyages to FRANCE; in that case, she would not only save, but also gain, freight. This is the sort of vessel which lies nearer to the wind, which sails the best close-hauled, and which is the most quickly managed. Although preferable to tartans, the Bermudian sloop is not in use in the MEDITERRANEAN; yet her qualities make her well calculated for the navigation of a sea intersected by a multitude of lands, between which vessels are frequently obliged to ply in narrow channels.

3. We should not confine ourselves to purchasing, or receiving in exchange, the articles which enter into the trade used in the LEVANT; but we should also take off corn and wine, in the places and at the periods when
5 they

they are in the greatest plenty. With the corn, we should make biscuit, with which, as well as with wine, we should supply the vessels which frequent the seas of TURKEY, and which would prefer drawing their provisions from the storehouse than from the sea-port towns, where all commodities are kept up at a high price. We may judge how interesting this article is, when we shall recollect that, before the war, there were no less than five hundred French vessels engaged in the carrying-trade, in the part of the MEDITERRANEAN which bathes the Ottoman possessions. I have said that these vessels left FRANCE in ballast, and that they sailed for three years, in the service and at the expense of the Levantines, who, for fear of privateers, durst not make use of their own vessels. Peace will restore to the French carrying-trade its former activity. Upwards of three hundred vessels, Venetians, Ragusans, Neapolitans, &c. there also exercised this sort of carrying-trade, in competition with the French, without reckoning the ships of all nations employed in regular voyages, that is, direct from EUROPE to one of the sea-ports in the LEVANT. The victualling of the ships would not form the only consumption of biscuit; there are islands in the ARCHIPELAGO which cannot support their inhabitants, either on account of the aridity of their soil, or from the weakness of their population, or because the islanders, given up to fishing or navigation, do not employ themselves in the culture of their lands; or in short, because despotism, by enchaining industry, there extinguishes even foresight, that ordinary companion of the love of existence. During the winter, a period when navigation is benumbed, fishing suspended, and want more perceptible, boats, loaded with biscuit, would be received in those islands, with eagerness, and their cargoes purchased with avidity.

4. The progress and success of the undertaking depend, in a great measure, on celebrity in the carrying-trade; boats which would never re-

main in inaction, would be sometimes employed in bringing to the storehouse, wood which the crews would cut on the coasts, where frequently the finest trees cost only the trouble of felling them; of those we would fashion ship-timber equally in request by the Levantines and by the ships of EUROPE. We should even derive a profit from it, by sending it to FRANCE.

This summary, although greatly abridged, shews sufficiently how many means we should have of enlarging the commerce of the ARCHIPELAGO; they would be increased on the spot by a crowd of circumstances which would rapidly succeed each other, and, especially, as I have already said, by local knowledge, enlightened attention, and industrious activity.

The goods for importation from the ARCHIPELAGO are of two sorts: those which are common to all the LEVANT, as wax, oil, foot, silk, wool, cotton, hair, goat's hair, ox's hides and horns, cow's hair, drugs, raisins, and figs, coffee, &c. &c; and those which are peculiar to the islands, are mastic, turpentine, jafmin pomatum, stuffs and purses of SCIO silk, *dimities** and *scamittes* of SANTORIN, PAROS, &c; stockings and caps of ARGENTIERA cotton, TINO knit silk stockings, native MILO alum and sulphur, mill-stones from the same island, wines of SAMOS, SANTORIN, TENEDOS, SCOPOLI, NAXIA, and CANDIA; NAXIA and PAROS marbles, carnelions, saffron, sponges, archil, Cimolean earth, coloquin-tida, cypress gum and cones, filtering-stones, gall-nuts, marum, ortolans in barrels, cuttle-fish bones, &c. &c.

* *Dimity* is a cotton cloth crossed, finer, stronger, and more in request than the *scamitte*, another sort of plain cotton cloth.

The articles for exportation should be very diversified. It is important always to have a complete assortment of them, and to proportion the quantity of each of the articles, to the consumption and taste of the people for whom they are intended. The following is an account of them, in which I have adopted alphabetical order, as the most convenient, and I have there distinguished the more or less great consumption of the various articles†.

LIST

Of the different articles of merchandise which enter into the trade of the
ARCHIPELAGO.

Barracan	Calmande
Beef-salt	Cambric
Beer	Candles (wax) for the table, <i>a small</i>
Blondes	<i>quantity.</i>
Bottles (glafs)	Caps (worsted) red and others
Bracelets	Cards (playing) <i>a few new, more old</i>
Brocades (flight)	<i>ones.</i>
Buttons, <i>a small quantity.</i>	Chali, a sort of twilled serge
Bougie (spun)	Chifels for stone-cutters, marble-
Cadis, a sort of serge	cutters, joiners, ironmongers, &c.

† This account, which I had published in 1797, was addressed officially, by the minister of the interior, to all the departmental administrations, at the epoch of the capture of the Venetian Islands, and the Isle of *Cerigo* by the French armies, in order to direct, in a certain manner, the speculations towards the commerce of these same islands. This adoption of my views, on the part of the government, must, undoubtedly, do me honour, but no one has known that they were mine, and I take the liberty of making this observation, only to secure myself from the suspicion of plagiarism towards the minister of the interior of that time.

Cloth (gold and silver) out of fashion,	Iron
and in remnants only.	Kitchen utensils
Cloth (hempen) common and Dutch.	Lace (narrow French thread) black
Cloth (fail)	and white, of little value.
Cloths (woollen)	Lace (net) gold and silver, more
Combs	false than genuine.
Cords	Lace (gold and silver) of all breadths,
Corks for dame-jeannes and bottles,	and of the most showy patterns.
<i>a great many.</i>	Lead
Crape (Swiss)	Legumes
Crockery	Linon or French lawn
Damask	Mohair
Dame-jeannes covered with straw.	Muskets
Damaskette (Venice)	Nails
Drugget	Necklaces
Drugs (compounded)	Needles, <i>a great many.</i>
Ferret	Nutmegs
Flowers (Italian)	Packthread
Fustain	Paper
Gauze	— painted
Glasses for mirrors	Parchment, <i>a little.</i>
Glass-ware	Pasteboard
Grogrammes	Pearls
Gunpowder	Pins
Hams	Pistols
Handkerchiefs (pocket)	Planks
Hangings	Prunes
Hardware	Ribands (filk) of all sorts, and espe-
Hats	cially the handsomest, <i>a great</i>
Herrings	<i>many.</i>
	Rings

Rings	Sugar
Salmon	—— in powder
Sardines	Sugarcandy
Sattins	Taffety
Sciffars	Tea
Serge	Thimbles for fowing
Sergette	Thread
Ship-timber	Thonine
Shoes (embroidered, for women)	Treacle
Spirit of wine	Watches (large) some with Turkish
Steel	dial-plates and characters.
Stockings (thread) <i>a great many, a few pairs of filk.</i>	Wax-candles
Stuffs of all forts, besides those mentioned in this list, and to choofe among the most <i>showy; by way of trial.</i>	Wax-tapers in rolls
	Wire (brafs)
	—— iron
	Velvet (coloured filk)
	Velvet (cotton)

N. B. It is not possible to fix the fums that would be required for the establishment of which I have juft treated: the more or lefs importance that we fhould propofe to give it would regulate the amount. We might begin at a fmall expenfe, and imprefs on it by degrees the movement fit for infuring it the greateft profits.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

Island of Stenosa.—Island of Patmos.—Its convent.—Its harbours.—Its population.—Small islands near Patmos.—Isle of Samos.—Its fertility.—Its wines.—Its position.—Fournis Islands.—Island of Nicaria. Island of Myconi.—Its harbours.—Its inhabitants.—Its resources.—Dress of the women.—Trago-nifi.—Stapodia.—Isle of Delos.—What it was formerly.—What it is in our days.—Island of Rhene.—Rematiari.—Island of Tino.—Its nature.—Its silk stockings.—Women of TINO.

NEAR the Island of NAXIA, towards the east, lies that of STENOSA, or NARROW ISLAND, which is, in fact, very small and uninhabited.

Farther on, to the north-north-east, the Island of PATMOS, whose name has been disfigured by our navigators into that of SAINT JEAN DE PATINO, exhibits its arid rocks and numerous capes. It is celebrated in ecclesiastical history, from the exile of ST. JOHN, and still more from the visions and revelations which he there received, and which served him for composing the Apocalypse. Some Caloyers, inhabitants of a vast monastery built on an eminence, and which, at the first view, one would be tempted to take for a fortress, true disciples of stupid ignorance, still shew the grotto where the saint wrote his mysterious book, and even the hole in the wall through which he received the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

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There is no library in this convent; and of what utility would it be, among people who, for the most part, cannot read? Out of eighty monks who reside there, M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER found only three who knew how to read, but who made little use of that knowledge*. It is, nevertheless, this haunt of brutality and ignorance, where the alphabet is scarcely known, which has been represented recently as a place famous for its schools of literature†.

The Island of PATMOS is little more than six leagues in circuit; considerably longer than broad, its direction is from north to south; its form is very irregular. Its coasts are divided by a multitude of gulfs and coves, and are remarkable for the number of good harbours which they present to navigators, and among which that of SCALA is one of the finest in the ARCHIPELAGO. Whatever advantages may be derived from its harbours by a country whose position marks it out for a place of trade, wretchedness has not, on that account, the less got possession of PATMOS. Vallies which might insure abundance, are uncultivated, and from their state of abandonment and nakedness, offer, with the hills by which they are surrounded, only the same afflicting tint of ruggedness and misfortune. Population, which follows the chances of agriculture and industry, is there singularly diminished; and, while the monasteries swarm with fluggards, the fields become deserts. In the summer, few men remain here; they almost all go and seek far off means of subsistence, or carry on with their caiques, a traffic which feeds, but does not enrich them. The women remain intrusted with domestic cares, and to make the most of a few pieces of land, during the absence of their fathers or husbands; and this timid tribe hide and shut themselves up, when they see strangers land in their island.

* *Voyage Pittoresque de la Grèce*, tom. i, page 103.

† *Magasin Encyclopédique*, 4th year, No. xxiii. page 293.

Several small islands are situated to the east of *PATMOS*, in the great bight of the sea, between the Islands of *STANCHO* and *SAMOS*. These islands are *NACRI*, *LYPSO*, *AGATHO-NISI*, and *FERMACO*, they are all nearly uninhabited. To the north of them lies an island more famous and more important, that of *SAMOS* of *IONIA*; for the ancients had imposed this same name of *SAMOS* on three different islands: the one situated near *THRACE*, whence it had taken the denomination of *SAMOS OF THRACE*, or, in a single word, *SAMOTHRACE*, at present *SAMANDRACHI*; the second, which the Greeks called *SAMOS THE STEEP*, at present *CEPHALONIA*; lastly, the third, lying very near the coast of *IONIA*, and of which I am now speaking. Some assert that the name of *SAMOS*, which has replaced several other names that this island had before, was given to it from a hero who was born there: others affirm that the Greeks, calling all elevated places *SAMOS*, had, under this denomination, designated an island which, in fact, presents considerable eminences.

It was formerly consecrated to *JUNO* who there received life, on the banks of the river *IMBRASUS*, and under the shade of an *agnus castus*, or chaste tree, a shrub common in *SAMOS*, as well as in the other islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*. A magnificent temple had been erected in honour of the goddess: at this day, a few remains of it are scarcely to be found; it is annihilated, as well as the ancient splendour of the island. *SAMOS* was also the cradle of *PYTHAGORAS*, of the poet *CHERILUS*, of the mathematician *CONON*, cotemporary of *ARCHIMEDES*, of *TIMANTHUS*, one of the most famous painters of ancient *GREECE*; and it was in the same island that *HERODOTUS*, flying from tyranny, sought an asylum, and composed in a sweet retreat the first books of his history.

For a long time past we cannot quote any celebrated personage born at *SAMOS*. It is not under the reign of heavy tyranny that genius and

talents prosper, and slaves can become great men. But the Samians distinguish themselves by amiable qualities; they are the mildest and most witty of the Greeks. Their country still possesses every thing required to become flourishing: very good harbours, the best of which is that of *VATHI*, a position very advantageous for trade, a fertile soil, a wholesome climate, a pure air, and abundant waters. What sources of riches and happiness, if impure hands had not dried them up by an administration which seems to have been engendered by the genius of destruction!

The productions of SAMOS are the same as those of the most favoured islands; they might acquire greater abundance and variety, if the inhabitants durst give themselves up to labours, which, in a state well organized, would be animated by encouragement. The ancients admired the brilliant fertility of this island; it was an object of envy in the eyes of several nations, which repeatedly attempted to make themselves masters of it. To convey an idea of this abundance, it was commonly said that at SAMOS hens even gave milk. But what is singular, is that the ancients there found every thing excellent, except the wine*; while it makes, at present, and deservedly too, one of the best revenues of the island; and its muscadine wines would, with greater precautions, and if they were kept, attain the quality of that of CYPRUS, so esteemed among us. During my abode in the ARCHIPELAGO, I saw several large ships from the North, and particularly Swedes, take in at SAMOS cargoes of wines, in order to convey them into their country, and I always have been surprised that they have not been more in vogue in FRANCE.

The Island of SAMOS is about ten leagues in length, and nearly the half in its greatest breadth; but this extent in length exists only in a sin

* *Ex vino infelix est cum cæteræ circumvicinæ vino optimo abundant.* STRABO, rerum geograph. lib. xiv.

gle point, on account of a narrow cape, stretching very far towards the south, which is called Cape *COLONNI*, and a few fragments of which have been separated by the sea: these are called *SAMO-POULO* or *LITTLE SAMOS*. *GREAT SAMOS* is itself but a fragment more considerable, detached from the continent, from which it is separated only by a channel that is scarcely half a league in width. Navigators are acquainted with this little strait under the name of *LITTLE BOGAZ*; the great Bogaz of *SAMOS*, which is nearly two leagues in breadth, lies to the west, between that island and the small *FOURNIS* Islands, called thus, because, at a distance, they have the figure of roofs of ovens: they were anciently called *CORSEÆ INSULÆ*. This is a passage much frequented by ships sailing from *CONSTANTINOPLE* to *SYRIA* and *EGYPT*, and they there find good anchorages.

Near these islets, to the west, is the Island of *NICARIA*, anciently *ICARIA*, on account of the son of *DÆDALUS*, who fell there in the midst of his rash flight, whence the sea which surrounds it also took the name of *ICARIAN SEA*. The island is not considerable; its length greatly exceeds its breadth; it is discoverable at a very great distance; but navigators do not endeavour to land there, because it has no harbours. A scanty population, want of energy, a soil too ungrateful in several districts, general discouragement which the government impresses throughout the extent of its domination, are little calculated to repair the disadvantage of an island which is deprived of places of shelter for shipping, and consequently of great means of trade; so that *NICARIA* may be reckoned among the most wretched islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*.

This is not the case with *MYCONI*, situated at some distance from *NICARIA*, towards the west. A harbour known by the name of *TOURLON*, on the west side of the island, is an anchorage frequented by ships sailing through the *ARCHIPELAGO*, in order to repair to *SMYRNA* and
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the north of TURKEY: they are there in safety against the winds from the north, north-east, south, and south-east; but the others blow right in there, and raise a heavy sea. When navigators seek a shelter against these same winds, they find it off the small town or village of MYCONI; but they are there buffeted by those which cannot penetrate into the anchorage of TOURLON.

The Greeks of MYCONI are great navigators; they traverse the sea that surrounds them with their boats, among which there are some rather large. Addicted to maritime trade, they neglect the culture of their lands, from which they might, nevertheless, derive considerable advantage. All the productions which they yield in too small a quantity, for want of culture, are of a very good quality; wine and fruits are there excellent: but though wine is almost the only article of commerce of the Myconites, they mix it with water to increase its quantity, without paying attention that they diminish its value. Game abounds there; the most delicate birds arrive in numerous flights twice a year, in spring and autumn; in short, all the necessary or agreeable articles of life are there to be found in profusion. But water is scarce; and, during the great heat of summer, every thing is dry in the fields, and assumes the aspect of aridity. This drought, the intensity of which might, with ease, be diminished, has, doubtless, contributed to narrow there the domain of agriculture, and to induce men to seek, abroad, means of existence more certain and less laborious.

The name of this island has not changed; the Greeks called it *MYCONOS*. Fable makes it the tomb of the Centaurs that were killed by *HERCULES*. The ancient writers have called the inhabitants of MYCONI, bald heads: it is asserted that this was a defect which was natural to them, and as it were an endemical disease with which they almost all came into the

the world. We no longer remark among the present islanders these dispositions to become bald. Those of antiquity were likewise reckoned great parasites, and men who presented themselves at feasts, without being invited, were proverbially called *guests of MYCONI*; a habit which not only announces distress, or excess of gluttony, but also an absolute want of delicacy among those who have contracted it.

When we have seen the dress of the women of MILO and ARGENTIERA, we no longer find that of the female Greeks of MYCONI so ridiculous; it somewhat resembles the former, yet without being so whimsical; it is, in general, more loaded with ornaments heaped up without taste, without intelligence, but which are not, on that account, less disadvantageous to beauty. The principal occupation of these women is to spin cotton which grows in their island, and to make it into stockings or cloths.

A shoal uninhabited, and to which the Myconites send flocks, affords a good anchorage a league to the east of MYCONI; it is called *TRAGONISI*, that is, he-goat island, because, in all probability, it formerly contained wild he and she-goats; but none are seen there at present.

Lower, and a little farther from MYCONI, are two points of arid rocks, which the Greeks call *STAPODIA*; and our navigators, *LES DEUX FRÈRES*.

A sort of religious tremor takes possession of the mind, when, on quitting the Island of MYCONI, one makes sail to the west, and approaches an island very small, but which was in antiquity the most celebrated of all; a sacred spot, the cradle of APOLLO and DIANA, the subject of the songs of the most famous poets, and the object of the veneration of the ancients, who came thither to adore APOLLO in a temple, one of the most superb edifices on earth, and the majestic ornament of the most magnificent city
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in the world. Who has not heard of the wonders of DELOS, of its monuments, of its riches, of its brilliant population, of the magnificent elegance of its architecture? Who, with a taste for the beautiful, has not, in the annals of the happy days of GREECE, greedily sought the description of so many miracles of art? I shall not here repeat what may be read in several works of great merit, among which that of BARTHELEMI ought, in my opinion, to hold the first rank*.

But the Island of DELOS, formerly so opulent, and where were celebrated with so much pomp religious ceremonies, in presence of an immense concourse who repaired thither from all points of the EAST, is now no longer any thing but a desert abandoned to filthy animals and covered with ruins and rubbish. Pirates and robbers are almost the only men who land there; they go thither to share the fruit of their plunder, or concert new schemes of rapine, seated on fragments of altars where incense and perfumes burnt in honour of the god of day.

The ruins of DELOS, the imposing remains of the most beautiful edifices of which ancient GREECE was proud, are now no longer what they were at the periods when modern travellers visited and described them. They themselves have their ruins, and they owe this fresh degradation to the profane barbarism of people who came thither to take materials for building their houses, or to wretched Turkish sculptors, who carry off every year precious pieces, in order to make of them those little pillars surmounted by a turban, which the Mahometans erect over the grave of the dead. The name even of DELOS is forgotten in the seas where it had acquired so great a celebrity. The Greeks at this day name *DILI*

* *Voyage du jeune Anacbarfis.*

the two islands of *DELOS*, and our navigators distinguish them by the denomination of *ISDILES*, *LES ISDILES*.

A strait of about five hundred toises, separates the famous island of *DELOS* from that of *RHENEÆ*, or great *DELOS*, equally desert, and which served as a place of sepulture to the former, in which it was forbidden to bury. In the middle of this narrow channel, are two shoals called the *GREAT* and the *LITTLE REMATIARI*: the ancient Greeks had consecrated the larger to *HECATE* or *DIANA*, and they called it the *ISLAND OF HECATE*, or *PSAMMITE*. Ships, even men of war, find good anchorage near this shoal.

Almost all the vessels which repair to *SMYRNA* and to the other seaports of *ASIA MINOR*, sail out between the Islands of *TINO* and *MYCONI*, a channel which is not more than a league and a half in width. When the north wind blows with any degree of violence, it becomes impetuous in this passage, and the sea there rises with fury. The Island of *TINO* has no good harbour; there is only a rather bad roadstead off the small town of *SAN NICOLÒ*, built on the ruins of the ancient town of *TENOS*, the capital of the island, whose name has not, as is seen, much changed. Near the ancient town, a temple had been erected to *NEPTUNE* who was there revered, because to this god the inhabitants attributed the happiness of having been freed from a prodigious number of snakes which infested the island, and whence it had taken the name of *SNAKE ISLAND*. This temple no longer exists in the memory of men, neither does the town of *TENOS*; but the whole island is a real temple, dear to Nature, and which she has taken a delight to adorn with her favours. Its rich plains are still decked with all the opulence of industry. The inhabitants are active and numerous; every thing there combines to make it one of the most agreeable islands of *GREECE*, and at the same time

time one of those where comfort and happiness appear to fix themselves with most constancy. What would it be if so many advantages could be seconded by a wife liberty, which constitutes the strength and prosperity of empires!

One of the most abundant productions of the island is silk; the women employ themselves in feeding the insect which yields it, in winding it into skains, in spinning it and knitting it into stockings, which have not the lustre of stockings wove in the loom, but which are far better, cheaper, and of excellent wear. It is, no doubt, the fear of injuring our manufactories, which had prevented the introduction into FRANCE of the works in silk, knit by the women of TINO; they would, nevertheless, deserve to be brought thither, and they would suit persons who prefer what is solid to what is agreeable.

The dress of the women given to pleasant but uninterrupted occupations, has nothing of the whimsicalness of that of the women of several other islands; it is at the same time noble and elegant. Beauty, the general appendage of the female Tiniots, under this dress, neither loses the graces of its outlines, nor its bewitching forms, and the amenity of disposition, the ingenuous candour, an innocent desire to please, there render the young women extremely amiable, and extremely attractive.

CHAPTER. XXXVII.

Scio.—*Character of its inhabitants, and particularly of the women.—Their clothing.—Silk purfes which they work.—Witchcraft arising from the look of Envy.—Trade of the Isle of Scio.—Its wines.—Culture of the vine and of mastic.—Its plains.—Leprosy.—Harbour of Scio.—Island of Ipsara.—The Islands Spalmadori, Pysargos, and Venetico.—Tschefiné. Engagement between the Russians and Turks. Journey by land from Tschefiné to Smyrna.—Warm baths.—Caravanfary.*

“ THERE is no town,” says BE’LON, “ where people are more obliging
 “ than at CHIO. And, indeed, it is, in my mind, the most agreeable
 “ place of residence that I know, and where the women are most courteous
 “ and handsome. They afford an infallible testimony of their ancient
 “ beauty ; for, as a nymph in the Island of CHIO, surpassing snow in
 “ whiteness, was called by the Greek name CHIONE, that is to say, snow ;
 “ in this very manner the island taking the name of the nymph, was
 “ surnamed CHIO. The men there are also very amiable ; and though this
 “ is a Greek island, however, for the most part, people live there in the
 “ style of the Franks, that is, after the manner of the Latins*.”

What BE’LON wrote in the sixteenth century, respecting the capital town of the Isle of Scio, is still conformable to truth, except a few modifications, or rather a few deteriorations, physical and moral, the ha-

* *Les Observations de plusieurs singularitez et choses mémorables, trouvées en Grèce, Asie, &c. &c.*
 par PIERRE BE’LON. liv. ii. chap. viii.

bitual effects of the presence and harsh and improvident administration of the Ottomans. The town is tolerably large and well built; it is the work of the Genoese, who for a long time had the whole island in their possession. The ancient town, which, as well as the island, bore the name of *CHIOS* or *CHIO*, was placed on the summit of a mountain. The modern town is at the foot of this same mountain, by the sea-side, and its situation is thence become much more agreeable. The Greeks who inhabit it are still, as in *BE'LON*'s time, the most polite, the most affable, the most gay, and, perhaps, the most witty of all the Greeks. The women there are charming, and, as *BE'LON* says, very courteous. There are none, perhaps, who have such engaging manners; and, to see them at the doors of their houses, press strangers to enter with them, pull them even by the arm, and invite them with much sprightliness, we cannot, at first, avoid conceiving an improper opinion of women so free in appearance. But all these demonstrations, which, among us, are the height of depravity, are, at *Scio*, no more than the ebullitions of an affectionate and hospitable heart, and of the wish to derive some advantage from the works on which they employ themselves; and any one would be singularly deceived, if, emboldened by the semblance of enticements, he should attempt to take an unfair advantage of women, who introduce strangers into their houses with a frankness which, from a habit of corruption, is reckoned a want of reserve. Under appearances the most attractive, and at the same time the most familiar and engaging, the seducer would, in an easy *tête-à-tête*, meet with only the imposing resistance of the most rigid virtue, and the shame of being mistaken.

These women so frank, but at the same time so virtuous, knit with silk several sorts of works, and particularly handsome purses. The desire of selling them has induced those who work them, to learn to offer them in the language of all the nations which traffic in the *LEVANT*; and a

Frenchman, as well as an Italian and a Swede, heard himself addressed from all quarters, in his language, when he passed in the streets of Scio, "Sir, Sir, come and see some handsome purses!" I bought some of these purses at Scio; the handsomest, which are also the largest, cost me not three livres a piece, and they could not be procured in FRANCE for more than double that price.

The rearing of silk-worms is an occupation almost general at Scio. The women there principally apply themselves to it, and they take every precaution imaginable, in order that some ill-disposed person may not cast on valuable insects the pestiferous look of envy, which, according to the Greeks, would not fail to kill them. This sort of superstitious creed, of which I have spoken more in detail in Chapter XXVII. is general in Greece, where it is applied to all animated beings. In some parts of FRANCE and GERMANY, the country people dread the influence of sinister looks only for their cattle, and the Spanish ladies of PERU fear it for themselves*. It is easier to spread an error all the world over than to propagate a truth.

If any thing could disparage the charms and affability of the women of Scio, it would, undoubtedly, be their manner of dressing themselves. Their clothing is without grace, and put on without taste. The more they endeavour to adorn themselves, the more they recede from the rules of an

* "The ladies of Peru wear round their necklace amulets, which are medals without an impression, and a small hand of jet, three lines broad, or fig-tree wood called *biga*, closed with the exception of the thumb, which is raised. The idea of virtue which they attribute to these amulets, is to secure themselves from the complaint which they imagine may be communicated to them by those who admire their beauty; a complaint which they call the disorder of the eyes. Some of these preparatives, of a larger size, are made for children. This superstition is common to the ladies and to the people." *Voyage à la mer du Sud, par FRÉZIER*, page 219.

art which, in order to be attended with success, ought to tend only to set to advantage the beautiful forms of nature. The female Sciots seem to envelop these in a sack; their head is loaded with a high and shapeless head-dress, somewhat similar to the cap of the Mamalûks of EGYPT; and their manner of adorning their feet is no less inconvenient than ridiculous. I have caused to be drawn a pair of shoes or sandals of the women of SCIO, at the bottom of *Plate VI.* which represents the costume, still more absurd, of the women of ARGENTIERA.

Silk constitutes the principal wealth of SCIO; velvets, damasks, and stuffs of different sorts are there manufactured: but these efforts of happy industry, instead of having been encouraged, have experienced difficulties and obstacles, which have caused the number and the produce of the manufactories to diminish. This island partakes with others of the same sea, the trade of wool, wax, oil, and excellent fruits, especially sweet-scented oranges and figs, which are conveyed into the great towns of TURKEY. It is well known that SCIO produced wines held in great repute among the ancients; historians and poets have extolled them as the best in GREECE, a country famous for delicious wines. At ROME, they were prescribed for disorders of the stomach, and CESAR regaled his friends with them in the entertainments which he gave on the occasion of his triumphs, and in the festivals in honour of JUPITER and the other Gods*. These wines, so celebrated by the wine connoisseurs of antiquity, are still very good at this day. The vine is, among the present Greeks, an object of great culture and attention; they plant it on the sloping grounds, and before they make the wine, they suffer the grapes, which they cut in the month of August, to dry for a week in the sun. They have preserved the manner proposed by CATO (*De re rustica*), for

* Plin. Hist. Nat. lib. xiv. cap. vii. xiv. and xv.

securing vines from the ravages of insects, and which consists in surrounding the plants with a mixture of bitumen, sulphur, and oil. This preservative, described by CATO, has been announced in our days as a novelty, in several works of rural economy; and it is not the only very old discovery with which certain authors have wished to do themselves honour in more than one way. However this may be, the authority of CATO, whose writings on agriculture are a model of simplicity and perspicuity, indispensable in works of this sort, and which have not had many imitators, a happy and immemorial practice among a nation, whose wines have had and preserved a great name, must inspire confidence, and induce the adoption of a preservative so useful.

But a trade peculiar to the Isle of SCIO, is the resin, which is there made to exude from the lentisk; whole fields are covered with this shrub, whose wood also furnishes the best toothpicks to the fancy of the Roman ladies. The mastic which is drawn from it, is one of the most certain productions of the island: it is carried to CONSTANTINOPLE, and into the great cities of the Empire, where the women are incessantly chewing it in order to render their breath sweet and agreeable. This resin was sold at SCIO, when I passed there, for about five livres of our money the pound. There is also made, with mastic, a brandy very good and agreeable.

When one comes from any of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO, whose soil is rude and mountainous, one is struck by the richness and beauty of the Island of SCIO. A town elegantly built, agreeable gardens, plains delightful from the gifts of nature and the labours of a well-understood culture, mountains whose arid surface still throws more charms over rich vallies, an amiable and industrious people—every thing contributes to make SCIO a very agreeable place, and it is with regret that one sees it delivered up to the despotic ignorance of the Turks. Their sinister improvidence

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vidence there frequently suffers the introduction of destructive scourges, among which they themselves hold a very remarkable rank, and the plague often exercises its ravages in this charming country.

The leprosy also there propagates its disgusting symptoms; and what proves that the precautions claimed by humanity, but of which a stupid administration is incapable, would be sufficient to annihilate it, is that the species of leprosy, common in all the East, and of which so many victims are seen in CANDIA, the Jews' leprosy, is there becoming more rare from day to day.

There is nothing wanting at SCIO to render its trade more flourishing, but a good harbour; that which exists is by no means spacious or deep; and rocks, even with the water's edge, obstruct its entrance: it can receive none but small vessels; large ships and men of war anchor without, in an open road, which has, at least, the advantage of affording the facility of going out of it with all winds. FRANCE maintained at SCIO a vice-consul; he occupied a large and agreeable house; the Jesuits had also a convent there: but what is of greater importance, no merchant of our nation was there established, although several had been settled there formerly, and it is a place of great trade, both on account of the rich productions of the island, and the crowd of shipping which put in there, or come thither to take in cargoes.

Round SCIO are several small islands. About two leagues to the west of Cape SAN NICOLO, the most northern of the island, is *IPSARA*, which the ancients called *PSYRA* and *PSYRIA*, on which there was a town of the same name, whose place is now occupied by the modern town: here a few vestiges of the ancient city are still to be seen. This town is the only habitation of the island, which is small, stony, and affords no great

great resources to agriculture and commerce. The vine delights in this stony soil, and it is to its culture that the rural industry of the Ipsariots is nearly limited, as the wine which they export is their only branch of commerce.

A league from *IPSARA*, lies an islet smaller and desert, which is called *ANTI-IPSARA*; it is scarcely two leagues in circumference: between these two islands, ships find a very good anchorage.

Nearer, and to the east of *SCIO*, some islets, called *SPALMADORI*, and anciently *ÆNUSSA*, still form for large ships a safe road. More to the south lie two shoals, to which the ancient Greeks have given the name of *CASYTES*, and the moderns that of *PYSARGOS*; lastly, at the most southern point of the island, called Cape *MASTICO*, because it is in this district that mastic is gathered, another shoal, which has received the name of *VENETICO*, leaves sufficient space for ships to pass there without risk, a sea deep and clear, alike bathing the cape and the shoal.

The channel which separates the Isle of *SCIO* from *ASIA MINOR*, is but two or three leagues in width. On the continent, the gulf and the little town of *TSCHEMESME'* are opposite to the town of *SCIO* itself, eternal testimonies of the defeat and shame of the Ottoman navy. It was in the very harbour of *TSCHEMESME'*, that, in the month of July, 1770, the Turkish fleet, consisting of twenty-five sail, fifteen of which were large caravels, was entirely destroyed by a Russian squadron of nine ships of the line and six frigates, under the command of Count *ALEXIS ORLOFF*. Never was victory more terrible nor more complete: all the Turkish ships were abandoned to the flames, all blew up with a dreadful crash; almost all the crews perished in this conflagration, and of all their navy, there remained to the Turks, after this battle, only two ships, which had not been able to
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join the fleet, and another old ship unfit for service, in the channel of CONSTANTINOPLE. This formidable fleet, which ought in appearance to have driven the Russians out of the seas of the LEVANT, disappeared in an instant, and the latter remained masters of the ARCHIPELAGO; had they chosen, they might likewise have become masters of the capital of the empire, for the discouragement was general, and the castles of the DARDANELLES, not being in a condition to make a powerful resistance, would not have been able to stop the conquerors. Carcasses of ships half burnt and sunk, tops of masts appearing out of the water, in the head of the harbour of TSCHESME', still attest this event memorable and glorious for the Russians, who displayed as much courage and skill in naval tactics, as their enemies shewed ignorance and cowardice.

TSCHESME', whose name recalls that of *Cyssus*, which this town formerly bore, affords nothing remarkable; it is built on the declivity of a hill, at the head of the harbour. I had repaired thither with a boat, belonging to the country, which was to take me to SMYRNA; but, after having put into Scio, and struggled a long time against the northerly wind in order to get out of the channel, I was forced to seek there a place of shelter. Tired of waiting for more favourable weather, I resolved to proceed to SMYRNA by land. I presented myself, according to my custom, to the Turkish commandant at TSCHESME', with my firman; he instantly procured me horses and a *bareikdar*, or ensign, to accompany me.

A league from TSCHESME', I saw a spring of hot and mineral water, where the Turks belonging to the town go to take vapour baths. I there beheld a great crowd of bathers; it was on a Friday, a holiday for the Mahometans; however, they find there no other refreshments than coffee, a beverage with which they can no more dispense than with baths. The road, beyond these baths, becomes rather bad and difficult, across a

chain of lofty, stony mountains, covered with pines. I stopped, to pass the night, in a caravansary, where all travellers are received and fed indistinctly, without being put at any expense. The aliments, which are there served, are simple, and common to all passengers; they consist of bread, a dish of eggs, and water. The house is endowed with property, sufficient for providing for the temporary refreshment of travellers. Foundations of this sort are not uncommon in the East, the abode of hospitality: in my opinion, they indicate the more greatness of mind and frank generosity, as spirit of pride and ostentation, of which an apparent beneficence is but too frequently the cloak, can have in them no share, since it is only on the death of the founder, that we are aware of the good which he has done. On the other hand, there are, in those countries, neither great talkers nor officious public papers, which recommend to general admiration actions, all the merit of which often lies only in an ambitious publicity, and we there bless the memory of the founder without knowing his name.

Very early the next morning, I quitted a sort of inn, very simple indeed, but which a traveller leaves with his mind as much satisfied as it is frequently soured, by the insipid hospitality and the scandalous cupidity that is met with in the multitude of inns with which our highways are covered. After having followed some roads still worse than the day before, I arrived early at *DOURLAK* or *VOURLA*, a small town, situated on the south coast of the Gulf of *SMYRNA*, and, according to every probability, built on the ruins of *CLAZOMENA*, an illustrious city of ancient *GREECE*, and the country of *ANAXAGORAS*. Several small islands, which lie in front, also bear the name of *DOURLAK*, and form a very good harbour, whither trading vessels come sometimes to take in dry fruits and other commodities.

It is reckoned twelve hours' journey from TSCHESME' to DOURLAK; I was very well received here by a Greek mongrel, for he was the son of a Frenchman and a Greek woman. He had been settled here for a long time, and practised physic; he was, besides, very eager to render services to the French, whom he considered as his countrymen. Here I took other horses, which the Turkish commandant procured me; he also gave me a *ulugh-bachi*, or captain of the gates, as an escort. The road which leads from DOURLAK to SMYRNA, is more agreeable than that from TSCHESME' to DOURLAK. It runs along the coast of the gulf; the way is not solitary; you pass by habitations; birds are numerous on the trees of the country, and those of the shore give life even to the sand of the beach; while vessels of every size, with swelling sails, seem to fly over the surface of the waters.

After having passed CAYADERA, you leave on the right two mountains, or rather two points of mountains, which appear of similar form and size: our seamen of the MEDITERRANEAN have given to these two hills the denomination of *pouffôs*, which in the Provençal dialect signifies *mamelles*, (paps). You then arrive at a fortress, which is called SMYRNA CASTLE, intended for defending the approaches of that large city. Ships are compelled to pass under the cannon of this fort, in order to avoid some shoals by which this part of the gulf is obstructed; and it would perfectly accomplish its destination, were it not in a state of decay, which would render it a weak place of defence. In short, after having travelled about ten leagues, you arrive at SMYRNA, a large city, built at the very head of the gulf, at the foot of a hill, and on the sea-shore.

There is not in the LEVANT any situation better calculated to be the centre of a flourishing trade than that of SMYRNA; it was also the richest and most splendid sea-port. Numerous caravans bring thither from the

interior, spun cotton, filky ANGORA fleeces, PERSIA filk and carpets, drugs of every species, wax, figs, the fine dry raisins, known by the French in the LEVANT trade under the name of *pances de SMYRNE*, &c. &c. and even goods and merchandise from the south of INDIA by way of PERSIA and ALEPPO; while ships of all the trading nations of EUROPE, loaded with commodities from that part of the world and with those of AMERICA, arrive and succeed each other in a harbour, no less spacious than safe and convenient. This was also the rendezvous of ships of war belonging to the European nations, intended for protecting merchant-vessels in the seas of TURKEY. They retired thither during the two or three winter months, a season in which the navigation of the ARCHIPELAGO is very dangerous, on account of the long nights, which frequently prevent a navigator from knowing where he is, in the midst of a labyrinth formed by a multitude of islands lying near to each other, and of waves which, not being able to spread, break, and are thrown back on all sides with much impetuosity, which, according to the expression of the ancients, gives them some resemblance to goats bounding in the fields. Entertainments given and returned, made this refreshing place a port very agreeable and much wished for by the officers of those ships.

The quarter of SMYRNA occupied by the Europeans, resembled a town of EUROPE, and the mild and tolerating character of the Turks, inhabitants of the other quarters, rendered it a tranquil and safe residence to strangers. An active industry and no small share of affability, reign among the Greeks of this town; their women have all the exterior qualities of beauty, and they know how to give them still more charms and display, by the noble, agreeable, and even voluptuous form of their garments. A few traders of EUROPE there displayed great luxury. Our consul-general, of whom the merchants had frequently to complain, forgetting the origin of his institution, and fancying himself governor-general

general or ambassador, lived there in much hauteur and pomp. I was really shocked at being a witness of a bargain concluded by a consul for the hire of a house; the annual price of this rent, ruinous to trade, was settled at eleven hundred Turkish piaſtres, that is, near twenty-seven thousand livres. It was certainly necessary, that the other parts of the expenſe ſhould agree with that of the house, and one may judge how such establishments, regulated on baſes ſo defective, became burdensome to the State, without being more useful to commerce. This ſtyle of grandeur, which frequently bordered on an unbecoming hauteur, even reached the very counting-houſes of the traders, and one was aſtoniſhed to find among ſimple factors or brokers lofty and pompous pretensions. This ſpirit, by no means compatible with that of traffic, continued always increaſing, without commercial operations following the ſame progreſſion; but it muſt be admitted, that if the obſerver had to lament this falſe direction of the agents of commerce, the man, a ſtranger to theſe ſerious reflections, found in the aſſemblage of Europeans ſettled at SMYRNA the charms of good company, and the pleaſures which opulence finds means to fix in every country on earth.

A line of conduct more ſerious, but at the ſame time better directed towards a great object of utility, was followed at SMYRNA by the merchants of ſome other nations of EUROPE. What I have ſaid on that ſubject in different places of this work, and particularly in Chapter XXXV, is confirmed by the obſervations of a man of great merit, and who, having viſited the LEVANT as a ſtateſman, and lived in TURKEY as ambassador from FRANCE, has been better enabled than any one to collect valuable information reſpecting our ancient TURKEY trade. What M. DE CHOISEUL-GOUFFIER has written on that of SMYRNA is ſo important, and his authority comes in ſuch a manner to the ſupport of my ideas on this ſubject,

subject, that I can do no better than report the passage in which he speaks of it in his "*VOYAGE PITTORESQUE DE LA GRE`CE.*"

" Were we to judge," says M. DE CHOISEUL, *tom. 1. page 203,* " of
 " the distribution of the trade of SMYRNA, by the number of merchants
 " of each nation, FRANCE would, for a long time past, have appeared
 " much more powerful than she then was in reality, since she had twenty-
 " five houses, while the English had but six, and the Dutch four. She
 " carried on, however, but the third of the trade, and made up, by the
 " number of her agents, for what might be wanting, in other respects, to
 " their existence. Foreigners, and especially the Dutch, come into the
 " LEVANT with considerable capitals, there form substantial establish-
 " ments, and being already rich, see, by the credit which their opulence
 " infuses them, the means of enriching themselves also increase in all sorts of
 " business: they themselves direct the proceedings of their consul, are at
 " his side, and not in his suite. The Frenchman, on the contrary, a
 " simple broker, does business only for the MARSEILLES merchant,
 " whose manager he is, shares with him all the duties of commission,
 " and sometimes may complain of the consul, who thinks that every one
 " ought to obey him blindly: aspiring only to the possession of a pecu-
 " lium, which may allow him to return to his own country, this French-
 " man hastens the end of his exile, by every means that the most con-
 " stant economy can afford, and renounces that kind of consequence
 " which is always obtained by the appearance of wealth."

Nothing less is required than the beautiful climate of SMYRNA, its delightful and important situation, the freedom which is there enjoyed, and the opulence of its commerce, to induce men to fix themselves on a soil which is agitated and overthrown by frequent shocks. Violent earthquakes are there often felt; the ground opens in several places; noises
 formed

formed by vast cavities, terrify the inhabitants, while their shaken houses fall and bury them under their ruins. These scenes of disorder and desolation are frequently renewed, and fires, the inevitable consequences of the overthrow of a populous town, likewise add to their horror, and consume, with frightful rapidity, whole quarters, half laid in ruins by terrible commotions.

To these great disasters, the idea of which, to any one who is acquainted with the LEVANT, is inseparable from that of SMYRNA, are also added, every year, the ravages of the plague. The Europeans then condemn themselves to a salutary imprisonment; while, on all sides, men fall struck by this frightful disorder, and their dead bodies heaped up, attest the criminal and stupid want of foresight of the government, still more than the violence of the contagion.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Observations on the plague.—Route by land from Foglieri to Smyrna.—Ravages of grasshoppers.—Foglieri.—Island of Mitylene.—Its capital town; its harbours; its advantages.—Musconisi Islands.—Island of Lemnos.—Agio-Strati.—Tenedos.—Strait of the Dardanelles.—Imbros. Samandraci.—Island of Taffo.—Its mines; its fertility; its wines; its woods.—La Cavale.—Contessa.—Mount Athos.—Arrival at Salonica.

IN the preceding chapter, I have spoken of the plague, a destructive and permanent scourge in TURKEY, participating with earthquakes in the ruin and desolation of the flourishing town of SMYRNA. Its disastrous effects, which scarcely fail to be renewed every year, have not always the same intenseness, nor the same violence. The year 1778 was one of the most remarkable for its ravages: at CONSTANTINOPLE, there died to the number of two thousand people in a day. What frightful rapidity of destruction! And what stupid resignation on the part of men, who, for centuries past, suffer themselves to be mowed down by the scythe of contagion, without seeking the means of preserving themselves from it!

Physic has as yet discovered no certain remedies for the plague, and the recipes which are found in books are by no means effectual. It is difficult and very dangerous to indulge in observations on a disease which is communicated with a frightful promptitude, and every physician has

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not the courage, or, to speak more correctly, the madness of that Russian surgeon, prisoner at CONSTANTINOPLE with a number of his countrymen, who took it into his head to inoculate these unfortunate beings with the plague, in order to render the contagion less destructive: by this means he killed two hundred of these prisoners; and, fortunately for the rest, the inoculator, after having performed the operation on himself, died of his own treatment. By collecting remarks already somewhat numerous on the subject of this disease, we shall succeed in ascertaining its nature, and shortly in delivering from it the human race. It is for the purpose of contributing, as far as lies in my power, to an object so desirable, that I am going to add a few notions to those which I have already mentioned in Chapter XI. relative to the plague, which I have frequently had an opportunity of seeing very near at hand, and to which I have been more than once exposed.

Some French physicians have improperly reproved M. SAMOÏLOWITZ, a celebrated Russian physician, and author of a very good Memoir on the plague, printed in 1783*, for having advanced that this disease exists neither in the air, nor is communicated by the air, but by contact alone. Notwithstanding all the arguments of these physicians, and the contrary observations of a M. PARIS, which they quote†, the assertion of Doctor SAMOÏLOWITZ is incontestably true. Although a person lives in a place infected with the plague, he will never catch it, unless he communicate immediately with persons who are attacked by it, or if he touch not substances which are infected and calculated to serve it as conductors. Indeed, without mentioning the opinion generally spread in the LEVANT on this subject, it is sufficient for the Europeans settled in TURKEY, to

* See the *Gazette Salulaire* of the 18th of March, 1784.

† Octavo, Paris, Leclerc, 1783.

shut themselves up and insulate themselves in their houses, in order to be preserved from the contagion, even when it makes the greatest ravages in towns which they inhabit, and though they draw, from without, their provisions and their daily food, frequently purchased at the dwelling of pestiferous persons.

And what proves still more that immediate contact can alone communicate the plague, is, that it happens that a portion of clothing may be sufficiently impregnated with pestilential miasmata for transmitting the contagion to those who touch it, while it has no effect on him who wears it.

All animal substances, whether they have preserved their primitive state, or have been fashioned by the hand of men, are vehicles of the plague; cotton, flax, hemp, and the cloths which are manufactured of them, are equally so: paper even has this fatal property; and, happening to be under quarantine at MALTA, I was witness of the alarm which was there spread by a piece of paper which the wind carried over the gates of the Lazaretto, and which had fallen in the midst of several persons. Eatables in general, and metals, are not conductors of the contagion: one may with impunity receive from the hand of a pestiferous person a piece of money, or any other species of metal, also herbage, fish, bread, &c. It is nevertheless asserted, that bread very hot may communicate the disease, whereas cold bread does not give it.

The actual dispositions of the constitution decide on the more or less facility of catching the plague. Several persons touch with impunity those infected without any precaution; and, after having braved the danger for several years, these same persons find themselves sometimes attacked the first, and sink under the disease.

If there be reason to suspect that, at the moment when a person falls ill, the plague is the cause of his illness, there is, for ascertaining it, a method which is considered as infallible in the LEVANT; this is to make the patient take some brandy, or conserve of roses, which occasions it to shew itself immediately. The same property is attributed to garlic.

It is reckoned certain that the best regimen to be observed, when one is attacked by the plague, is to live only on meat or fish salted. All other food is pernicious, and fruit, of whatever species it may be, is mortal. A man, who had had an opportunity of making a great number of observations, during a long stay at CONSTANTINOPLE, where he was chaplain of the *hospice* of the Franks, had remarked a symptom, according to which he decided immediately whether a pestiferous person was to perish or escape: he was never mistaken in his prognostics. He had discovered, that when the bubo is far from adherent, and shakes on its base, well-founded hopes may be conceived; and that, on the contrary, if the bubo be absolutely fixed and immoveable, there is no hope of avoiding death. This same observer had also remarked, that if a patient, after an access of delirium, suddenly recovered his senses, he seldom got the better.

It is almost always in the groin and armpits that the pestilential bubo comes. Frequently several of them make their appearance. Sometimes is seen, independently of the bubo, a boil-like tumour; the complaint is then much more dangerous: but if a person recovers from it, he is in the sequel less exposed to the contagion. Besides the bubo and the boil, some persons have likewise a sort of furuncle, which is called *phimas*, and which differs from the boil-like tumour by its not becoming black. Those who are attacked by it run a more imminent danger; but if they have the

good fortune not to sink under the disease, they have absolutely nothing more to fear from the plague, during the remainder of their life.

Although a person has been attacked by this terrible disorder, he is not, on that account, secure from catching it again. One may be afflicted by it repeatedly; and this observation appears by no means favourable to the project of inoculation which has been brought forward by some persons. I knew a man who had had the plague seven times; but an observation very singular, and nevertheless certain, is that when a person has been once attacked, and he happens to be again, even a long time after, in a place where it reigns, he feels dull pains, pinchings, shootings, in the place where the bubo was. These symptoms are even a mean of announcing the approaching invasion of the disease. There have been seen people who, being in places where no sign of the plague was perceived, complained of these shooting pains, and, ere long, symptoms of the contagion made their appearance.

The direction and strength of the winds contribute to increase or diminish the activity of the plague. It is when the north-east wind blows that it exercises the greatest ravages at CONSTANTINOPLE. In this same city, a frightful storm has been known to stop suddenly the effects of the contagion.

This small number of observations, to which I might have added others more known, does not appear to me favourable to the system of some modern men of science who have attributed the plague to insects, as the cause of the itch, and of the other disorders of the skin, has been imagined to be found in little animals of the same class. I do not, however, assert that this opinion, founded on certain affinities, ought to be absolutely rejected; but it deserves to be examined with attention:

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it would, were it confirmed, put us in the direct road for obtaining the cure of the disorder the most active and the most cruel by which human nature is afflicted.

To the fear of the plague am I indebted for the advantage of having travelled along the north coast of the Gulf of SMYRNA, as I had for the most part followed that which is opposite to it. After the engagement of the *MIGNONNE* frigate in the harbour of MILO, I no longer quitted that ship, as I have before said, during the course of her cruise in the sea of the LEVANT. The plague had broken out in several places, and every one dreaded to land there. However, the state of war in which we were, required information that we could obtain only from our consuls. In order to reach those agents, in the insulated situation to which Prudence had condemned them, it was necessary to traverse the centre of the contagion. I was charged with this mission, as more familiarized with the Turks and the dangers with which they have suffered themselves to be surrounded, and at the same time as being more habituated to the precautions which dangers of this sort require. I had already been landed at SCIO, where the plague reigned, and I thought for a moment that I should be the victim of my good will. In proceeding to the house of our vice-consul, whatever precaution I took to touch no one, a Turkish soldier, who was running very fast, pushed against me at the turning of a street. I own that I could not help feeling some inquietude, which I took good care not to communicate, but which was soon dispelled.

The frigate waited for me under sail in the channel of SCIO: it was of much importance that she should repair to SMYRNA, but the plague was there exercising its terrible influence with greater malignity than at SCIO. D'ENTRECASTEAUX resolved to anchor at FOGLIERI, and begged me to go by land to confer with the French consul-general at SMYRNA. My
firman

firman smoothened every difficulty. I soon procured horses, and I hastened to proceed to *SMYRNA*, which was distant twelve leagues: although I had set out rather late, I arrived there before night. Nothing less than the importance of my mission was necessary to determine the consul to admit into his house a man who had just crossed the fields, and the half of a large town, infected by the plague. I had left my horses and their guide without the walls of *SMYRNA*: I rejoined them the next morning early, and returned with the same diligence to *FOGLIERI*. Almost all the plain which I traversed was in a state of culture; it had been covered by rich crops, but of these there no longer existed any thing but the remains. Innumerable legions of grasshoppers, the formidable agents of famine, had lighted on them; the ears had been cut by their sharp-edged jaws; the straw even, hacked to pieces, announced confusion and complete devastation. The waters of the little river of *SARABAT*, and of some rivulets which discharge themselves into the sea, along this coast, had disappeared under a thick crust of dead bodies of grasshoppers heaped up, and the infection which they spread corrupted the air, and threatened to add fresh cause of mortality to those with which the plague desolated that beautiful country.

On the Cape of *ASIA MINOR*, which forms, with that of *KARABOUROUN* or *BLACK CAPE*, the spacious and deep roadstead, known under the name of the *GULF OF SMYRNA*, two places likewise bear the name of *FOGLIERI*: the one is called *NEW FOGLIERI*; and the other, *OLD FOGLIERI*. This is the ancient country of the Phoceans, a celebrated people of ancient GREECE. Some small islands, which lie in front of *NEW FOGLIERI*, afford them and the continent a very good anchorage, fit for the reception of the largest ships.

Thence

Thence we proceeded to *MITYLENE*, one of the most considerable islands of that sea, and which is no more than four leagues distant from the continent. The name of *METELIN*, sometimes given to it at this day, is corrupted from the more ancient one of *MITYLENE*, which succeeded the name of *LESEOS*, under which this island formerly acquired great celebrity. Its domination extended over *TROAS* and *ÆOLIS*. But what did it more honour than its power, was to have been the cradle of illustrious personages, who constituted its glory and that of *GREECE*. One of the benefactors of human nature, who delivered his country from the yoke of tyranny, *PITTACUS*, of the small number of the sages of *GREECE*, was born at *LESBOS*. The poet *ALCÆUS* there composed his verses; *PHRYNIS*, the melodious airs, with which he made his lyre resound; *THEOPHRASTUS*, his commentaries; and feeling and love-struck hearts drop a tear to the memory of the beautiful and ingenious *SAPPHO*.

The modern town of *MITYLENE* is built on the ruins of the ancient city of that name, and its environs still afford some very beautiful remains of its magnificence. The harbour is small and bad; but the island has others, the two best of which are Port *SIGRI* and Port *OLIVIER*. The former is at the west extremity of the island; and the latter, which is the more frequented, is formed by a gulf that is behind and at a little distance from the town of *MITYLENE*. Its entrance is long and narrow; but the anchorage there is good and commodious.

The position of the Island of *MITYLENE*, in the vicinity of a great extent of the coast of *NATOLIA*, which it seems to command, placed at an equal distance from the Gulf of *SMYRNA* and the channel of *CONSTANTINOPLE*, not far from the principal Islands of the *ARCHIPELAGO*, renders its possession extremely important, as its interior resources render it susceptible of the most flourishing state. But it is in the

the hands of the Turks: this is announcing sufficiently that the advantages of its situation are lost, and that, from day to day, population, agriculture, and all industry, are diminishing and falling into decay.

In the channel formed by the Island of *MITYLENE* and the coast, at the entrance of the Gulf of *ADRAMITI*, some small islands, which the Greeks call *MUSCONISI*; and our navigators, *MYSCONISSES*, formerly bore the name of *HECATONES*. They are, as well as the large Island of *MITYLENE*, very fertile, principally in wines and oil; but this generosity of Nature is there powerfully counteracted by the present rulers.

We set sail, after a very short stay on the coast of *MITYLENE*; we doubled Cape *BABA*, or *CABA*, formerly *LECTUM PROMONTORIUM*; and as our mission was to cruise in these seas, we kept under easy sail between the Island of *LEMNOS* and that of *TENEDOS*. The former, larger and farther distant from the coast, was consecrated to *VULCAN* in the time of *HOMER*, probably on account of two volcanoes, which were here continually casting forth flames, and which were considered as the forges of the husband of *VENUS*. There no longer remain any vestiges of these volcanoes: however, interior fires are still burning here; for we here meet with a spring of hot water, which has been brought to supply baths, and another of aluminous water. This island is hilly, but extremely fertile; it yields corn, cotton, oil, and silk, with which a few light stuffs are manufactured.

The species of bole which bears the name of Lemnian earth, and to which were attributed imaginary virtues, is still drawn from a hill of the island. To be flourishing, *LEMNOS* wants only to be delivered from its oppressors. Nature has done every thing for it, and one laments the state of languor and wretchedness to which its destiny has reduced it.

Its inhabitants were formerly much given to navigation, or, to speak more correctly, to the carrying-trade; they are still trading mariners, because this kind of industry escapes more easily the cupidity of tyrants, than affluence produced by agriculture or by a sedentary traffic. I there saw some extremely beautiful women, who were very far from inspiring the same disgust as the men had conceived of their grand-mothers, on account of their bad smell; if, however, this fact, quoted in a book of the wonders of nature*, have any reality.

All the east coast of LEMNOS is inaccessible on account of a shoal, which extends four leagues into the offing; the west coast affords to ships a few places of shelter against northerly winds. To the north, is a large road; but there are no real harbours except in the south part, where are to be found two, which are at no great distance from each other; Port CADIA, and Port SAINT ANTONIO.

To the south of LEMNOS, is a small island of little importance, which the modern Greeks call *AGIO-STRATI*; and our navigators, *SAINT ESTRATE*; the ancients called it *HIERA*.

The possession of the Island of TENEDOS, which is situated near the mouth of the channel of the DARDANELLES, might alone involve the loss of CONSTANTINOPLE: from this point would be formed the blockade of that great city, with the more facility, as the channel between the continent and TENEDOS is, correctly speaking, only a large roadstead, where ships may lie at anchor, ready to get under sail, and stop those which should attempt to penetrate into the Strait of the DARDANELLES. But the Ottoman government, incapable of feeling the importance of

* ANTIGONUS, *de Naturæ Mirabilibus*.

this advantageous port, seems to watch it with still greater negligence than other places whose preservation would be less useful. The wines of TENEDOS are almost the sole trade of the island: here are made muscadine wines, which are not inferior to those of SAMOS.

We stood in and anchored under Cape *GRECO*, at the entrance of the channel of the DARDANELLES, opposite to Cape YENI-HISARI, beyond which is the plain where TROY formerly existed. I shall not speak of this famous strait which makes the separation between EUROPE and ASIA, nor of the city of CONSTANTINOPLE: the little time that I was able to allot to visiting them, allowed me not to make many remarks, and I prefer saying nothing about them to repeating what has been written.

On leaving the new castles of the DARDANELLES, whose construction, by no means formidable, is due to M. DE TOTT, the *MIGNONNE* directed her course towards the Island of *TASSO*. We passed near the point of the Island of *IMBROS*, which, as well as TENEDOS and SAMOS, has retained its ancient name, which navigators have transformed into that of *LEMBRO*. It is from eight to ten leagues in circumference, and contains fertile vallies, and mountains covered with wood.

A league to the north of *IMBROS* is the Island of *SAMANDRAKI*, or *MANDRAKI*, which is but eight leagues in circumference. This is the *SAMOS* of *THRACE*, or, in a single word, the *SAMOTHRACE* of the ancients. *PLINY* calls it *SAMOTHRACIA LIBRA*; but this liberty has vanished with the greater part of the advantages which it holds from nature, and which the industry of its ancient inhabitants knew, or might have known, how to turn to account.

Towards

Towards the west extremity of MACEDONIA, and two leagues from the continent, the Island of *TASSO*, which the French call *LE TASSE*, shews at a distance its high mountains covered with forests. The channel, which separates that island from the main land, is also divided by a sterile islet called *LITTLE TASSO*, and in Greek *TASSO-POULO*, the vestige of an ancient continuity of lands, at present separated. A spacious road, where the ground is good for holding, lies between the two islands. Here we anchored.

TASSO is the most northern of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO; it was one of the most famous on account of its rich gold mines: HERODOTUS speaks of them, and they were under the direction of THUCYDIDES. No traces are now to be seen of that opulence of nature; not that it is exhausted, but it is alike buried by ignorance, fear, and tyranny. These mines procured the island the Greek name *CHRYSE*, which signifies of *gold*, or *gilt*: its riches had become proverbial, and the expression was a *thasos of wealth*. Neither are here now to be found opals, amethysts, and the other precious stones, which, with the gold mines, composed its natural treasures; but here is met with that beautiful marble, held in such estimation by the Romans, whose whiteness vies with snow, and the fineness of whose grain with that of Parian marble. The greater part of the mountains are still formed of this marble, which shews itself even on their surface; and it is worthy of remark, that the two Islands of GREECE which contain the most valuable marbles, were inhabited by the same people: it was the inhabitants of PAROS who peopled the Island of *TASSO*, and there built the town of *THASOS*, which was its capital, and the vestiges of which are still to be seen.

The island is near thirty leagues in circumference: it produces a great deal of corn, oil, wax, &c. but its fertility, extolled by the ancients, is no longer turned to account, for want of encouragement and culture. Its wines, formerly very famous even in the time of the Lower Empire, since JOHN CHRYSOSTOM exclaimed against the excesses to which they gave rise at CONSTANTINOPLE; its wines, I say, no longer have the excellent qualities which caused them to be in request at a high price. Its population has experienced the same fate as the productions of its soil; it is considerably diminished.

TASSO has still remaining a sort of wealth very important to a trading and maritime nation: this is capital wood for ship-building. The finest trees grow on the summit and declivity of the mountains; but the inconsiderate manner of felling them will soon have exhausted these resources of vegetation, more valuable than the mines of gold.

Opposite to the northern point of the Island of TASSO, Cape *ASPEROSA* forms a bight, in which is, to the west, *LA CAVALE*, a small town built on a rock that projects into the sea, and which has some resemblance to a horse. This resemblance has procured it the name which it bears; at least, this is an etymology more simple than that which derives its modern name from *BUCEPHALA*, which the same place formerly bore, on account of the town that ALEXANDER caused to be built there in honour of *BUCEPHALUS*, the conqueror's famous steed.

LA CAVALE was for a long time in possession of the Genoese and Venetians; it was become of late years a very active point of the *LEVANT* trade: its harbour, although not very safe, was frequented by ships which came to load there with corn, tobacco, and other commodities.

The Island of TASSO is situated at the entrance of a rather extensive gulf, which is called the *GULF OF CONTESSA*, because a town of that name was built at the head of it. Our navigators also call this bight *GOLFE DE RHONDINE*, from the corrupted name of the ancient town of *RHEDINE*; but the Greeks designate it under the name of *ORFANO*: this is the *SINUS STRYMONICUS* of the ancients.

From TASSO we made sail towards *MONTE SANCTO*, at the foot of which we passed. Under this name, as well as under that of *AGIOSOROS*, which the Greeks give to this mountain, and which has the same signification, we have some difficulty to recognise the famous mountain whose summit is lost in the clouds, and which, if we must believe the ancients, projects its shade as far as the Island of *MITYLENE*, and, according to *BE'LON*, an eye-witness, only as far as the harbour of the Isle of *LEMNOS*, that is, to the distance of eight leagues*. Mount *ATHOS*, forming an advanced promontory of *MACEDONIA*, which *XERXES*, king of *PERSIA*, separated from the continent by a long strait, and which *DRINOCRATES*, the architect of *ALEXANDRIA* of *EGYPT*, wished to consecrate to the perpetuating of the memory of *ALEXANDER*, by making of this mountain an enormous statue, whose smallest features would have been several toises in length, is a place revered by the modern Greeks. Millions of monks, an ignorant and fanatic race, occupy it at present: there are few of them who can read, although they have a tolerably good number of Greek books, among which it would be no easy matter to find some that might deserve to be opened; they consist of works of theology and controversy.

Continuing to sail towards the west, we crossed the entrance of the gulf which also bears the name of *MONTE SANCTO*, and which the an-

* *Observations, &c.*

cients called *SINUS SINGITICUS*. We doubled Cape *DREPANO*, formerly *DERRIS PROMONTORIUM*, forming with Cape *PAILOURI*, *CANASTRACUM PROMONTORIUM* of the ancients, another gulf, which had formerly the name of *TORONAIICUS SINUS*, and which is at present called the Gulf of *CASSANDRA*, on account of a small island which is at its extremity, and which is thus designated. We then entered the deep Gulf of *SALONICA*, and cast anchor in the harbour of that great city.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Town of Salonica.—Terrible fire of which the author was witness.—Trade of Salonica.—Disorders which are there experienced.—Plains of the environs of Salonica.—Excursion to Mount Olympus.—The author transforms himself into a physician.—Companion in his journey.—He crosses the gulf.—He lands, or rather is almost cast away, on the west coast of the gulf.—Vroumeri.—Construction of the rural habitations.—Dogs which are the formidable keepers of them.—Papagovernor.—Patients to whom medical treatment was necessary.—Fields of the environs of Vroumeri.—Storks.—Aga of Katherinn.—Skala.—Albanian soldiers by whom the Author was accompanied.—Trees of the forests of Olympus.—Troop of Albanian robbers.—Portrait of their chief.—Monastery of St. Dennis. Efforts of the author for reaching the summit of the mountain.—Snow which is there found.—Extent of the prospect.—Secret for curing the fever.—Animals of Olympus.—Return to Salonica.

THE latitude of the town of SALONICA is $40^{\circ} 41' 10''$, and its longitude $20^{\circ} 48'$ from the meridian of PARIS. It is built almost at the head, and on the east coast of a gulf that bears its name, the entrance of which is nine leagues in width, and the bight runs inland upwards of twenty leagues. The road, which begins at two capes, called *GREAT* and *LITTLE BOURNOU*, and terminates at a shoal which is situated at the very head of the gulf, affords good anchorages to ships of every size, and a safe retreat to fleets.

Its

Its name has not changed for ages; it is only abridged, and is not difficult to be recognised, in the present town of SALONICA or SALONIKI, the ancient and celebrated THESSALONICA, founded, it is said, by the sister of ALEXANDER, on the site of a more ancient city, which was called THERMA. It is also the capital of MACEDONIA, and one of the largest and most populous towns of the Turkish empire. Here are still to be seen pieces of ancient monuments; and every where fragments of edifices, profaned by their mixture with common materials in modern buildings. The church of ST. SOPHIA, constructed by JUSTINIAN on the model of that of CONSTANTINOPLE, is converted into a mosque, like some other churches of the Lower Empire. Here is also a castle of the seven towers, as in the capital.

The aspect of SALONICA, from the harbour, announces an agreeable enclosure; but when you enter it, you presently relinquish the good opinion which you had conceived of it: streets narrow and ill paved, as well as crooked, houses slovenly on the outside, and, in the inside, worse laid out, together with a miserable population, induce the wish of seeing it only at a distance. It is, nevertheless, one of the finest towns of TURKEY, and one of the most important, from its position and the richness of its trade. It is also the seat of one of the first governments of the empire.

Very shortly after our arrival, we were witnesses of a fire which had like to have reduced the town to ashes. The fire broke out during the night in a quarter where the Jews, crowded together, live in the most disgusting filthiness, and eaten up by disorders engendered by corruption. The construction of their houses, almost all of wood, the want of police, and assistance necessary for stopping the progress of the flames, allowed them to display a terrible activity, and in a few moments the whole quarter was burnt. The light of this furious conflagration spread itself
over

over the sea; and although the *MIGNONNE* was anchored at a somewhat great distance from the coast, on board her we saw clear enough to read on deck. The wind brought on the water a prodigious quantity of sparks, which fell sufficiently near the ship to occasion uneasiness, and cause every preparation to be made for getting under sail. Furniture, bales, already reached by the fire, were conveyed, in hopes of saving them, to the quarters the most distant from it, and there became the focus of fresh blazes, which were not extinguished without difficulty. But it was not possible to stop the ravages of the fire in the quarter of the Jews; four or five hundred houses were the prey of the flames, and to the frightful spectacle of their combustion, were added the cries which despair forced from its victims, the confused clamour of a militia, better calculated for increasing disorder than diminishing it, and the grave and mournful sound of a few pieces of cannon, fired from time to time as signals of alarm—every thing concurred to make this night, a night of fright and horror.

Considered as a fortified town, SALONICA is of no importance; an enclosure of ramparts, without ditches and ill kept, still worse defended by a very small number of bad pieces of artillery, render it susceptible of only a feeble resistance; and the undisciplined troops which form its garrison, are incapable of making amends, by their courage and skill in tactics, for this want of fortifications. But if this city, as a strong hold, is not at all interesting, yet it is extremely so from the trade of which it is the centre, and which, under another government, would become still more flourishing.

Situated in one of the finest countries of TURKEY in EUROPE, it is the emporium of a very considerable commerce. Here is shipped a great deal of cotton, gathered chiefly in the rich and extensive plains by which

the town of *SERES*, the ancient *SERRÆ*, is surrounded, and its brilliant culture gives to the market of this city an extraordinary briskness. Here too, vessels take in a great quantity of highly-esteemed tobacco, grain gathered in fields of admirable fecundity, very beautiful wool, silk, and the floss that comes from it, together with wax, honey, &c. &c. What a fruitful source of prosperity! What a vast field of industry! The one requires only to be freed from the obstacles which stop its course, and the other claims a population less scanty and less enslaved.

SALONICA is not always an abode so healthy as we should have reason to expect, from the beautiful sky under which that town is situated, and from its charming position. The plague, the formidable offspring of the improvidence of the Turks, and which neither depends on the temperature nor on the nature of the atmosphere, frequently makes cruel attacks on its population. But the accidental insalubrity of the air occasions fevers, which come in autumn to second the plague in its terrible ravages, and this insalubrity is also the work of an administration which, not confining itself to afford protection, has contrived to vie with the most violent disorders in the frightful prerogative of destroying mankind. Stagnant waters have been accumulated between the town and the little river *VERDARI*, which the Turks call *VERDAC*, and which discharges itself into the head of the gulf: from these marshes, the formation of which it would have been easy to prevent, and which might as easily be drained, emanate numerous germs of corruption to the atmosphere of *SALONICA*, and of death to its inhabitants.

I employed the time of our stay in frequent excursions to the plains which extend to the north of *SALONICA*, and I preferred these walks in the domain of Nature, to the monotony of a town, which, like all the towns of *TURKEY*, is, truly speaking, only the domain of disorder, tumult,

mult, and *ennui*. Every morning the frigate's boat landed me at the head of the gulf, and I passed days in visiting the beautiful plain which extends as far as *SERES*. Shooting, especially at birds, among which pheasants are not scarce, rendered my walks very agreeable; they were a necessary distraction to the chagrin which I felt in crossing districts, destined by nature for the most brilliant fertility, and nevertheless uncultivated or neglected; afflicting symptoms of discouragement and despotism. I prolonged my walks till it was dark, but the necessity of returning on board every evening, prevented me from extending them as far as I could have wished.

Our stay soon became stationary. Various advices induced D'ENTRECASTEAUX to remain yet some time in the harbour of *SALONICA*; I resolved, in my turn, to avail myself of this interval, in order to make a journey into ancient *MACEDONIA*. Mount *OLYMPUS*, on the top of which the warm imagination of the Greeks had fixed the abode of the gods, presented to our view, on the opposite side of the gulf, its lofty and rounded summit. The wish of ascending that celebrated mountain, took possession of my mind, and I hastened to carry my project into execution, but when I communicated it to the French merchants and consul settled at *SALONICA*, with a view of obtaining some information, they concurred in dissuading me from it. The Albanians, who have inherited the bravery of the Macedonians, but who tarnish it by the exercise of terrible robberies, had revolted; they no longer acknowledged the authority of the Grand Signior, nor consequently that of the pacha of *CONSTANTINOPLE*, whom they considered as an odious enemy, because he had recently marched against them with a part of his forces, and had in vain attempted to reduce them. The hatred of these people against the Turks of *SALONICA* extended to the very inhabitants of the same city; the Franks shared of this enmity; in short, to expose myself in countries inhabited

by hordes of courageous and cruel people, united under the authority of princes, real chiefs of robbers, was to give myself up to a certain death. This was all the information that I could collect, and certainly it was not of a nature to be very useful to me. The marks of interest which I received on this occasion from my countrymen, penetrated me with gratitude; I thanked them, but at the same time I begged them not to take it amiss, if, however well founded their subjects of fear might seem, I should not the less persist in my resolution.

It was in vain to endeavour to put myself into a state of defence against people disciplined and exercised in the use of arms; a fowling-piece was the only weapon that I would take; but I thought of covering myself with a shield, which had been of great service to me when I was travelling in the midst of the barbarous inhabitants of EGYPT. Being no longer able, any more than I was in that country, to appear in safety as a military man, in the excursion which I was going to undertake, I resolved to appear there as a physician. It is well known how much the art of ascertaining and curing the disorders of mankind is held in veneration among Orientals, and they grant us a confidence which they refuse to the empirics of their own country, whether they have a higher opinion of our knowledge, or partake with nations more enlightened, the rage of giving the preference to every thing that comes from afar: accordingly the first comer may call himself a physician in those countries, and attract the crowd. But the practice of physic by no means resembles that which is exercised among us; diet, regimen, ptisans, and other remedies which we abuse, must be struck out of the dispensary of the Orientals; our perfect resignation is unknown to them; they wish for active remedies and a speedy cure, or, at least, palliatives from which they may feel relief. I shall not enlarge more on the subject of this singular mode of treatment of

of the Orientals, because I have spoken of it very minutely in my TRAVELS IN UPPER AND LOWER EGYPT.

The preparatives of a journey which was to last but a few days, were not long, and I was soon ready to set out. M. DE T——, an officer in the regiment of P——, and commandant of the detachment of that corps serving on board of the *MIGNONNE*, wished to accompany me. I repeated to him all that had been told me at SALONICA respecting the inconveniences and dangers of this journey, and I apprized him that my manner of travelling was neither pleasant nor convenient, and that he must expect some difficulties, and, perhaps, a few untoward adventures. M. DE T—— had a cultivated understanding and a taste for knowledge; to these he joined a resolute mind; all that I could say did not affect him; he promised me not to deviate from what I should have to advise him in a country, whose manners and customs were entirely unknown to him: however, full of confidence in my habit of travelling, he had, he said, no uneasiness, as to the dangers which had been pointed out to us. We therefore took leave of D'ENTRECASTEAUX, who loaded us with the wishes of frank and generous friendship, which M. DE T—— shared with me, and we landed from the frigate on the 10th of July, 1780, at eight o'clock in the morning.

This was the hour of the appointment on which we had agreed for our departure from SALONICA, with some Greeks of that town, owners of a small boat, and with whom we had made a bargain for taking us to the west coast of the gulf. We waited a long time on the beach, but no mariner appeared. It was a great festival among the Greeks, and they did not content themselves with celebrating it at church; feasting was also part of the solemnity, and our boatmen, of a poor class, were celebrating the saint at a tavern. We looked for them a long time in quarters inhabited

bited by seafaring people; at last we were told where they were, and we found them at table, not thinking at all of the excursion that we were to make. They prevailed on us to return to the beach, whither they would follow us immediately: we remained there the whole day without seeing them, and it was not till about eight o'clock in the evening that we were able to find them again; we forced them to come down to their boat, but they were in such a state of ebriety that they could scarcely stand. After having spent the day in ennui and impatience, we concluded by finding ourselves at night at the mercy of people who, in the situation they were in, appeared to me more dangerous than the Albanians. However we made them embark, at the risk of being all drowned. I had no uneasiness as to our passage across the gulf; but the landing on the west coast, which I knew to be obstructed by shoals, presented to me difficulties, which did not appear to me easy to be avoided during the night; besides where were we to land on a coast with which I was not at all acquainted? I took good care not to communicate these reflections to my companion; he entered the boat with much confidence, and we set sail.

We were six in all; the two Greeks belonging to the boat, M. DE T—— had taken with him the drummer of his company, and my young Greek, who had attended me from CANEA. No sooner was the sail spread than the boatman, charged with the management of it, dropped asleep, and fell sprawling at the bottom of the boat; he who steered had a great inclination to do the same, but I kept him awake as well as it was in my power; not that I placed much confidence in him, but I wished to know the direction that he would take, in order that I might be guided for making the land. When I had found that we were going nearly north-east, I no longer attached the same importance to tormenting the skipper for the purpose of preventing him from sleeping, if, however, one could consider as awake, a man staggering drunk. He soon availed him-

self of the moments of quiet which I left him, and fell asleep; I pushed him, he rolled to the bottom of the boat, and I laid hold of the tiller. There was a swell on the water; M. DE T——, little accustomed to its agitation in a boat so small as ours, was sick, and lying at his length, wrapped up in his cloak: my young Greek was lying beside him, ficker still, so that the bottom of the boat was covered by four persons, whom different causes rendered incapable of movement. I remained alone with the drummer.

Favoured by a good wind, our voyage was fortunate; but, on approaching the coast, my embarrassment became extreme; I heard the agitated waves breaking with noise on the beach; and, in the dark, I did not perceive the land. We took in the sail, in order that we might not be dashed to pieces, and I induced the drummer to take an oar and row as well as he could. Presently he called out to me that he touched ground; I ran forward, and having myself taken the oar, I founded to know what was the nature of the bottom; I found it of fine sand: for fear of meeting with harder substances, which would have stove the boat, I resolved to run her on shore. I apprized M. DE T—— of my intention, at the same time desiring him to hold himself in readiness to walk through the shallow water in order to reach the land. At the moment when we struck the ground a wave came into the boat, and inundated our two drunkards, who thought themselves lost; we left them, and we again made a rather long trip, having the water sometimes up to our middle, before we found ourselves on dry land.

The day did not yet appear; nothing around us announced the vicinity of habitations, and we resolved to wait on the beach till we should direct our steps with certainty towards some village. But we did not remain motionless, and we endeavoured to warm ourselves by continual exercise.

Presently

Presently the watchful Aurora covered with her gold and purple cloak the arc of the horizon, which, on the east, separates light from darkness; the luminary of the day was not long in appearing, and with it, the beautiful country which we had before us. Looking at each other, we could not refrain from bursts of laughter, on seeing the pretty pickle in which we were. Our clothes, which we had not chosen of the best, were, for the greater part, soaked with sea-water and clinging to us; and the cold, by which we were penetrated, gave to our countenances a painful look, which was perfectly in unison with our plight. It was impossible to appear to greater disadvantage, and we were really very ill-looking physicians.

Our mariners had contrived to drag their boat, half-swamped, into a little creek: sleep, and still more the sea, by which they had been struck, had dissipated their ebriety; they begged us to forgive them for what had happened, and they ceased not to congratulate us on having extricated ourselves so well. We left them and proceeded towards a village, built a good half league from the sea-side. It is called *Vroumeri*; its situation is agreeable, in a fertile plain, and it is well built.

Different learned societies have several times proposed prizes, which were to be adjudged to the plan of construction the most suitable for rural habitations, the assemblage, or rather the huddling together of which, in the greater part of the villages of our countries, and particularly in those of the north-east parts of FRANCE, besides all kinds of inconveniences which are there accumulated, leaves an open range to the ravages of fire, and becomes the abode of filthiness and disorders. The question cannot be better solved than in the part of MACEDONIA which I visited. Independently of the good construction of the houses, each of those which form a village is insulated, and separated by a large space, from those that stand nearest. An enclosure, more or less spacious, and formed

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by palifades or quick-set hedges, furrounds it; this ground is almost always cultivated as a fruit or kitchen garden, a sort of culture which is not to the taste of the inhabitants of our country-places, and which we cannot too much engage them to adopt as an alimentary resource that would contribute to maintain them in health.

The aspect of the villages of MACEDONIA or ALBANIA is very agreeable. The trees which grow there on all sides, present, at a distance, the image of a large garden, and the houses which appear through vistas, give an idea of buildings for ornament or pleasure, rather than that of the dwellings of villagers. The air circulates freely between them, and the summer heats are tempered by the coolness of the orchards by which they are shaded. The people who inhabit them announce, by their vigour and robust constitution, what numerous advantages attend this method of building villages, and how much it were to be wished that it was introduced in our country-places. This is a favour which they claim, and the execution of which presents not so many difficulties as might be imagined at first sight*; it is worthy of the attention of a repairing government, which is bringing back on the soil of FRANCE all sorts of blessings, with a rapidity, almost equal to that of the frightful overflow of ills by which she was not long since inundated and almost swallowed up.

Every house is intrusted to the care of several dogs, and they acquit themselves wonderfully well of this employment. They rove night and day round their dwelling; strangers, who might go out alone, during the night, would infallibly be devoured by them. During the day, they content themselves with barking and following passengers very closely, to some distance from the house where they are fed, and they are speedily

* I propose to present my views on this subject in a particular memoir.

replaced by others; so that in walking in the streets, or, to express myself with greater precision, in the alleys of the villages, you have continually round you five or six of these great dogs, whose anger inspires a degree of fear. And indeed it is dangerous to appear there without being accompanied by some one belonging to the place; not that his presence hinders the dogs from running out at passengers; but, at least, he can keep them off with impunity, when they approach a little too near, and it is for this reason that no inhabitant goes out without being armed with a great stick.

The dogs of ALBANIA formed a distinguished race among the ancients; they have not degenerated, but are still very handsome and of a large size; we may add that they are very mischievous, and this is an affinity which they have to the men who breed them. I found, in fact, in the inhabitants of VROUMERI, though all Greeks, a rude, stern, and barbarous look, which I had not yet remarked in the different tribes of the same nation that I had visited. An old papas was the chief of the village; he was a malicious and treacherous man, and I thought that we should not get out of his hands.

On our arrival we waited on this priest-governor; I told him that we were physicians of high reputation, and that we proposed to go and gather plants of great virtue which grew on Mount OLYMPUS; I begged him, at the same time, to procure us the means of repairing to that mountain; he promised us every thing, but performed nothing; he every moment threw fresh difficulties in my way; and, as he had seen that I had removed a few by offering him money, he imagined that for every embarrassing, real or imaginary, which he might present, I should still continue to give him some. We were obliged to spend the whole day at VROUMERI, but we did not there remain idle. Patients came to consult us, and we had
work

work enough to answer them and point out to them remedies. The first patient that we saw was a woman upwards of eighty, who for ten years past had had the palsy in all her limbs; the papas, to whom she was related, insisted that we should cure her.---“A pretty beginning,” said M. DE T—— to me, “if we have to treat two or three patients so inveterate and so incurable, our medical reputation will go to wreck.” “—Take good care,” answered I, “not to betray the slightest embarrassment, or we shall be ruined; nothing must appear impossible to us, nor even difficult, and, by your leave, I shall represent this old woman’s disorder as a trifle, which cannot resist our skill.” In fact, after having pretended to examine the patient with much attention, I prescribed and gave remedies which, I said, were speedily to effect a cure; I left, in reality, only a chimerical hope, but the sentiment of which mitigated, at least for a few days, the fate of this unfortunate woman.

On that day I also let blood several times; M. DE T—— held the pallet, and frequently, on standing opposite to each other, we were ready to depart from the gravity which we strove to keep, and which was always ready to escape us. My companion could not get the better of his astonishment at seeing me operate, answer, prescribe as a real physician, and as if I had never followed any other profession. We were treated with the highest degree of consideration, and we passed the day and night very quietly in a place where, but for the apparent, yet very disinterested services which we rendered, we might have been molested. Early the next morning I renewed my entreaties to the papas, in order to have guides. I had acquired sufficient influence over his mind and over that of his countrymen, to speak with firmness; I threatened to complain to the aga, and he at length yielded to my solicitations.

We were travelling in one of the most beautiful countries in the world, where vegetation is brilliant and culture active; useful trees there increase rural riches, cover the soil with the coolness of their shade, and serve as an asylum to birds of every species, the ordinary companions of fertility. We there remarked particularly many turtles, jays, and magpies. Storks are common in all this country, especially in the environs of SALONICA, and I found, in a nest, young ones of that species, ready to take wing, at the end of the month of June. These birds are to the Turks, and to all the Orientals, sacred creatures; the houses on which they build their nests are considered as blessed, and secure from all accident. It is, no doubt, a very fortunate, and at the same time an uncommon circumstance, when superstitious ideas turn to the account of the general good; and this sort of veneration for storks tends to the preservation of animals, valuable on account of the appetite which leads them to destroy such as are noxious: thus it is that the ancient Egyptians had succeeded in rendering their country habitable and prosperous, by deifying animals from which an agricultural people may derive the greatest advantages. To kill storks would be a crime in the EAST; accordingly they are often seen walking in troops in the midst of fields sown and crops, with as much tranquillity as if they had been brought up in a state of domesticity.

After having, during the morning of the 11th, walked during a violent heat, we arrived, towards noon, at a large village called KATHERINN, the residence of an Albanian Prince, to whom the Greek merchant of SALONICA had given me a letter of recommendation. This Prince, who was named HALIL-AGA, had just raised the standard of revolt; he was much taken up with his warlike preparatives; mistrustful, besides, of the snares which the Ottoman court is in the habit of laying for those whom it wishes to destroy, measures of meanness and symptoms of the weakness of the government, he admitted no one. We were not able to see him; but

he excused himself in a very polite manner; and when he was apprized of the subject of our journey, he sent us two of his soldiers to accompany us to OLYMPUS. We immediately set out, and arrived about the middle of the night at a village situated on the declivity of the mountain, and which the Greeks call *SKALA*, scale, because one is already at a tolerable height when one arrives there, and because the acclivity, gentle till then, becomes, above, rugged and steep.

We waited till the day appeared in order to present ourselves at the Greek convent of *SKALA*: the monks there gave us a good reception; a bishop happened to be there on his tour. He was better informed than the bishops of the islands and of the continent of ASIA are in general. The land of MACEDONIA or ALBANIA is connected with that where light and knowledge are most diffused, and this point of contact is sufficient, if not to dispel the cloud of ignorance which still covers that country, at least to diminish its thickness. This bishop, whose person was respectable and whose disposition was frank and polite, understood Latin; this was for us a more direct mean of communication.

He related to us how many extortions the monasteries of these countries had to suffer from the Albanians, different parties of whom frequently came to plunder them or lay them under contribution. He recollected the two soldiers who accompanied us, to be of the number of those who, not long since, had committed robberies at the convent of *SKALA*: he represented them to us as two of the most determined thieves of the country, and we had already seen enough of them to discover that the good bishop did not deceive us; not that they had endeavoured to steal any thing from us, or to lead us into any ambuscade; but they really had the look of notorious scoundrels, and their discourse perfectly corresponded with the sinister features of their countenance. When we had quitted the plain,

plain, in order to begin to ascend OLYMPUS, and had reached the forests which cover it almost entirely, our guides began to relate to us mutually their robbing exploits, of which the woods that we were crossing had been the theatre.—“There,” said the one, “I assisted in
 “murdering and plundering six travellers.”—“At the foot of that tree,” resumed the other, “I killed with a musket-shot a Greek trader, who
 “was carrying money to the convent of SKALA.”—“Do you remember,” rejoined the first, “those Turks whom we cut in pieces with
 “our sabres? We are not far from the place where we fell in with
 “them.”

The conversation of our worthy guides continued nearly in the same style, during the whole time that our journey lasted, till we reached SKALA. The darkness of the night, and the mournful silence which there reigned, gave to their discourse an impression of terror with which it was difficult not to be affected. I lost no time in dispelling the alarms of M. DE T....., who could not help feeling some uneasiness—“The existence of these two monsters,” said I to him, “is doubtless a misfortune to human nature, but it is no less fortunate for us that they are
 “robbers well known; we have nothing to fear from them. The consideration which, as robbers, their crimes have acquired them with their
 “fellows, secures us from other attempts, and the aga well knew that,
 “by such a choice, he contributed powerfully to our safety. On the
 “other hand, we have not more to dread on their part; you have taken
 “notice of the respect which they shew us; they will continue it; we
 “are under their protection; this is a sacred title in the eyes of almost
 “all the nations of the EAST. The Bedouin who receives a stranger
 “into his tent, becomes his friend and his brother; and had he met
 “with him on the sandy plains, which he has made his burning domain,
 “he would have stripped without pity the very man towards whom he
 “exercises

“ exercises the virtues of hospitality, which, through a singular mixture of good and bad qualities, he knows how to blend with vices the most pernicious to all human society. The Albanian, more warlike, but also more ferocious than the Bedouin, has not the same social virtues; but he has enough of the general manners of these countries, to respect what he is charged to protect; and I am certain that we shall have every reason to be satisfied with those who are become the companions of our journey.”

A magnificent prospect is enjoyed from the convent of SKALA: on one side, the sea, the neighbouring coasts of Mount ATHOS, the numerous islands which render it very diversified; on the other, it extends over the beautiful plains of MACEDONIA, where PHILIP and ALEXANDER reigned, now given up to the barbarism of ignorance, and oppressed by the disorders of robbery. But Nature who ceases not to embellish them with her gifts, seems also to invite thither incessantly the favours of enlightened civilization.

The forests, by which the monastery of SKALA is surrounded, are composed of pines, firs, oaks, elms, beeches, hollies, chestnut-trees, &c. and inhabited by wild boars, stags, roe-bucks, bears, and birds of different species. Worm-wood is there common; the Greeks make a great use of it for curing fever and strengthening the stomach, as well as germander*, which they call *kamedron*. After having purged the patient, the physicians of that country make him take three times a day, morning, noon, and night, an infusion of two drachms of germander leaves. Here is also found a multitude of aromatic or useful plants, an inquiry into which might for a long time exercise the zeal of a botanist.

* *Teucrium flavum*. LINN.

While we were traversing these forests, in the course of the day of the 12th, we heard ourselves called repeatedly. It was our guides who were looking for us to inform us that a numerous body of Albanians had just arrived, and established themselves in the monastery. When we had joined them, they apprized us that these men were robbers by profession, much dreaded in the country. They appeared to us greatly embarrassed as to the resolution which we were to take: to fly had at first appeared to them the most prudent course; but the Albanians knew of our arrival, which might have partly occasioned their sudden visit, and they would not fail to set out in pursuit of us; then we should all have been lost.

On the other hand, they did not see less inconvenience in shewing us to people who were reckoned determined robbers, in whose eyes nothing was sacred: they, moreover, assured us that we ought entirely to rely on them, whatever might be our determination. The inquietude of our two soldiers was sincere, and they gave us on this occasion, as well as during the continuance of our journey, unequivocal proofs of interest and attachment, which scarcely left our reflections the power of representing to our mind that they themselves were very wicked men. I did not hesitate as to the course that we had to take, and we presented ourselves to the chief of the robbers. Never did man, by the whole of his exterior announce better his odious profession. A stature almost colossal, a corpulence which announced extraordinary strength, a broad face burnt by the sun, large eyes shaded by thick and long eyebrows blacker than jet, a stern and gloomy look, all the features and the countenance of hard-heartedness were displayed on the whole person of this chief of robbers, who was respectfully called *aga*. He was seated on a sort of sofa, placed in the cool air in a gallery of the convent; and surrounded by several of his officers: his long musket, with a thin and flat butt like all those of ALBANIA, was standing at his side; a capital pair of pistols was fastened to his waist,

waist, and a thick chain of massy silver, strengthened by several plates of the same metal, supported a large scymitar. I approached and repeated to him what I had said to the papas of *VROUMERI*: that we were foreign physicians, gathering wonderful plants which the soil of *OLYMPUS* produced, and of which we composed remedies no less wonderful. I added that having frequently heard of his power, we considered ourselves very happy in having an opportunity of offering our services to so great a man. Adulation is the snare in which fools suffer themselves to be caught the most easily; there are even people of understanding who resist not this dangerous bait. I remarked a shade less harsh on the countenance of the *aga*, and drew thence the most favourable omen. This man had long been troubled with an ulcer in his leg, which incommoded him greatly; he asked me if I could cure him. I promised him the most complete cure in less than a fortnight, and gave him a small bottle of *GOULARD'S* lotion, with which I had provided myself.

From that moment I was invested with the highest favour, and might have played with success the part of a protector, which suits the taste of so many people. I passed the evening with the *aga*: he would no longer allow me to quit him, and we smoked and supped together. But the rumour of the arrival of celebrated physicians had spread among the troop of Albanians, who had taken up their quarters in a small insulated building, while the chiefs had chosen the handsomest quarter of the monastery. Each of them wished to consult, and receive advice and remedies. They dispatched some of the gang as deputies to their *aga*, in order to prevail on him to send us to the place where they had assembled. It was agreed that *M. DE T.....*, who passed for my assistant, should repair thither with my little Greek, to serve him as an interpreter. I could not help laughing at the rude trial to which necessity subjected my fellow-traveller, and which did not appear to him pleasant. I gave him

hastily a few instructions, and he set out; but he acquitted himself so ill in this visit, and betrayed such embarrassment, that the Albanians, dissatisfied, dismissed him very abruptly. In order to prevent the fatal consequences that might ensue from the ill-humour of these barbarians, I hastened to repair to the midst of the gang, and, indeed, it did not appear astonishing that M. DE T.... had been disconcerted. Nevertheless, they found in me great skill in physic, and I came away at the same time leaving them the highest opinion of my talents. The night passed in the greatest tranquillity; and, far from having had subjects of complaint against this horde of robbers, we prevented the Greek monks from being too ill-used by them.

Very early the next morning we all quitted the convent of SKALA; the Albanians to gain the plain, and we to continue to ascend OLYMPUS. We stopped at another monastery three leagues from the former; it bears the name of ST. DENNIS, to whom it is consecrated. The mountain is there divided into several steep points, and the building is surrounded by those towering pinnacles, almost entirely composed of rocks. The monks shewed us a grotto, in which is a small chapel that they affirm to have been built by ST. DENNIS himself; they also shewed us a hut which served him as a retreat, and at the extremity of the grotto a spring which issues in a torrent from the rock, and which the saint forced to appear, not by a stroke of a wand like MOSES, but by striking the rock with his cap.

The small church of this convent is tolerably handsome; a large beautiful lustre of bronze, made in GERMANY, is suspended to the roof. A small library of Greek and Latin books printed in the same country, and well chosen, occupies a chamber of the monastery; but their binding will long be preserved in good condition, for no one touches them. Many other

other articles brought from neighbouring civilized countries, are to be found at ST. DENNIS (in Greek, *AGIOS DIONYSIOS*.) A large clock of a very common sort is here the particular admiration of all these districts.

Above this insulated convent, which is situated in a very wild place, there are no more habitations on OLYMPUS. We set out on the 14th, in order to endeavour to climb up to the summit. We soon met with large heaps of snow. Our guides would not fatigue themselves to no purpose in following us farther, they waited, with the young Greek, at the foot of these frozen masses of snow, where they kindled a large fire, the cold being very sharp at this height. We clambered as well as we could, the greatest part of the day, clinging to the branches of the shrubs which became scarcer in proportion as we got higher, and to the projections of the rocks, which, from the effect of an eternal frost, were frequently detached and remained in our hand. As long as we had trees and shrubs to sustain us, we were able to ascend; but benumbed vegetation no longer produces any at some distance from the summit of the mountain; this summit is naked and presents only a cap of snow and ice, on which it is impossible to sustain one's self and walk. It is not astonishing that the Greeks have placed the abode of the gods on an eminence which mortals cannot reach.

Thus it is at least that we saw the high, vast, and luminous OLYMPUS, as it was called by the ancients. It was the middle of July: the heat was extreme towards the base of the mountain as well as in the plain, and the masses of snow which were condensed near its summit, did not appear to be on the point of melting. However an English traveller has advanced that in the month of September no more snow is seen on OLYMPUS. We are tempted not to believe the assertion of BROWN,

when we have visited the mountain during the hottest part of the summer, and have heard the testimony of the Greek monks, who have succeeded the gods on this great elevation of the globe: they confirmed to us, indeed, what we could scarcely doubt, the perpetual permanence of snow and ice on the top of the mountain.

The reader may easily conceive the immense extent of different countries which our view embraced from the top of OLYMPUS; it seemed to us to touch PELION and Ossa, which form another chain of mountains; and the vale of TEMPE, of which the ancient poets have spoken to us as a place of delight, appeared to us a very narrow gorge, and the river PENEUS which waters it, a streamlet of water scarcely perceptible. However, we there remarked every thing that takes place on very lofty eminences; a very sharp cold, waters still colder, enormous shelves of rocks heaped the one on the other, and alike threatening heaven with their point, and earth with their fall, and at our feet big clouds which, by separating us from the abode of men, seemed to place us in the habitation of the gods.

When we had admired all these objects whose aspect elevates the soul, we agreed to return to our companions, whom we had left at some distance above the last monastery; and as on these rugged and steep rocks, there neither are paths, nor tracks to follow, each of us took the way which appeared most convenient to him to descend, and most frequently to let ourselves slide down, suspended to branches. But such is the habit of travelling in difficult places, that I soon ceased to hear my companions, and I reached the place of rendezvous, upwards of two hours before them.

M. DE T..... had a fever on arriving at the convent of ST. DENNIS, and it manifested itself with such violence as to give me some inquietude.

Two days of rest did not calm it: a monk proposed to dispel it in an instant; and as the question was not to swallow any species of drug, I prevailed on M. DE T..... to suffer him to operate. He took hold of both his arms, the one after the other; and leaning his thumb strongly on the artery at the wrist, he ran it along the vein, still pressing it violently with his thumb, and not without occasioning pain to the patient, almost up to the shoulder. I shall not attempt to explain what may be the effect of this reflux of blood in the arteries; but what I attest, is that the fever ceased, and we were able the next day to descend to the monastery of SKALA.

When one arrives at the frozen summit of OLYMPUS, one finds many charms in the situation of this convent; the temperature there is mild, vegetation vigorous, and the number of animated beings greater. With the exception of bouquetins, active inhabitants of the rocks, and a few bears, there are hardly any quadrupeds to be seen beyond the half of the height of OLYMPUS; scarcely do birds pass this limit, where the heat of the atmosphere begins to be lost, and where the cold increases in proportion as one approaches the summit.

On the 10th, we repaired to KATHERINN, where we sent our thanks to the ever-invisible aga; we also sent him a present, for which, according to the manner of the Turks, he thought fit to give us, in exchange, some provisions. We returned to VROUMERI on the 19th, a boat deeply laden with corn and soldiers belonging to the Turkish navy, was thence departing for SALONICA. At the moment of stepping into her, we separated from our two Albanians; they had accompanied us to the seashore, and we gave them well-deserved marks of our satisfaction. The wind was contrary; it rose with strength, when we were in the middle of the gulf. The boat being overloaded failed ill, and we were obliged to put into

into a small cove on the east coast, where we spent the night very uncomfortably, and exposed to the insults of an armed rabble, who have courage only when they feel the superiority of their strength, and who, in battle, are the first to fly: so that we had more to undergo in this little run, than during the continuance of a journey which had been represented to us as very dangerous. At length we arrived in the harbour of SALONICA, on the 20th of July in the afternoon, and we repaired on board of the *MIGNONNE*, where we received the congratulations of friendship, so much the more warm as considerable uneasiness had been felt on our account.

CHAPTER XL.—AND LAST.

Departure from Salonica. — Devil's Islands. — Pelagnifi. — Serakino and Dromi. — Saint Elias. — Scopoli. — Skiato. — Skiro. — General Observation on the Archipelago. — Andros. — Naples of Romania. — Arrival in France. Invocation to good taste.

A FEW days after our return from OLYMPUS, the *MIGNONNE* set sail from the harbour of SALONICA. We saluted, as we passed, the ancient residence of the gods and its antique forests, which we had just visited.

On going out of the gulf, the ship directed her course towards the south, after having doubled the DEVIL'S Islands. These are islets, or rather small shoals, the most considerable of which bears the name of *JOURA*: they form the extremity of a chain of islands and rocks, placed before the entrance of the Gulf of SALONICA, and which extends to the east, from the great Promontory of *VOLO*, the ancient *ÆANTUM* of *THESSALY*, till it faces Mount *ATHOS*.

This islet of *JOURA*, and a few others, smaller and likewise uninhabited, are very near an island of little extent, which the Greeks call *PELAGNISI*; and our navigators, *PELERISSE*. It was formerly called *PEPARETHUS*, and was scarcely more important than it is in our days; it, nevertheless, produced oil and wine which had some reputation. The numerous windings of its coasts render them as if indented, and two deep bights would form two good harbours, were not their entrance narrow and difficult.

Two small islands, *SERAKINO* and *DROMI*, also afford a place of shelter to navigators. Between them and *SCOPOLI*, a mountain rises in the midst of the waters; it is called *St. ELIAS*: the same name is met with in several parts of *GREECE*, and it is always the highest mountains that have there been consecrated to the prophet.

SCOPELO, and more commonly *SCOPOLI*, the *SCOPELOS* of the ancients, is the principal of this group of islands, situated near the coast of *GREAT GREECE*. It is fertile, and would be an agreeable abode, if it ceased to lose, through the viciousness of its administration, the favours lavished on it by Nature. The wine of *SCOPOLI* is still one of the best of the *ARCHIPELAGO*; but a strong flavour of tar renders it unpalatable to many. Off the town, or rather the village, ships find a harbour which is not very safe; they, in general, prefer the anchorage of a great road, formed by a few shoals and the Island of *SCOPOLI*.

The last of these islands, the remains of the continent of *GREECE*, and consequently the nearest to the coast, is that of *SKIATO*, whose name has not changed. It is separated from the Island of *SCOPOLI* only by a channel of about two leagues, and that which is between it and the main land is not much wider. Anchorages, rather numerous and safe, are to be found along the east coast, and between the small islets which are on the same side: to this nearly are reduced the advantages of this little island.

In the middle of the Isle of *DROMI* are two or three rocks, which are called *THE BROTHERS*, and below that of *PELAGNISI* is a very small island called *SKANGERO*.

We

We passed between the Islands *IPSARA* and *SKIRO*. Our navigators give to this latter the corrupted denomination of *SAINT GEORGE DE SQUIRRE*. This was the ancient kingdom of *LYCODEMES*, celebrated from the loves of *ACHILLES* and *DEIDAMIA*. At this day it is no longer any thing but the theatre of wretchedness, where are still to be found a few vestiges of the magnificence of its ancient edifices. Steep rocks rise on its surface; but they also leave, between their bases, vallies which would be adorned with all the riches of culture, if the inhabitants were more numerous, more active, and less oppressed.

If the reader cast his eye on the map of *GREECE*, he will remark, that all the great capes of the continent have before them a range of islands which extend into the sea, and always in the same direction as the cape off which they are situated. These are, beyond a doubt, summits of mountains detached from the chain, whose promontories are themselves only shreds; and this observation, added to those which are scattered in this work, does not allow us to doubt that the Greek *ARCHIPELAGO*, at very remote periods, formed a continent whose plains have been swallowed up, and which no longer shews itself but by lofty points, signals of its ancient existence, and enormous pinnacles, which the eye of the observer may still follow, and which serve him to trace the large fissures of this immense separation of lands.

ANDROS, a considerable island, lying in front of the peninsula of *AGRIPO*, commonly called *NEGROPONTE*, inclining like it towards the south, cannot be mistaken for the continuation of *Cape DORO*. It was itself attached to the land of *TINO*, and the latter to that of *MYCONI*, where the mountains diminishing in height and solidity, have not been able to present a sufficiently strong resistance to the impetuosity of the waters, but have been submerged. *ANDROS*, which has preserved its ancient name, is

one of the Islands of the ARCHIPELAGO the most worthy of remark, according to the expression of STRABO, from the fertility of its soil and the good quality of its productions: it wants only a good harbour and a better government.

We passed between this island and Cape *DORO*, leaving on our left the small island of *JOURA*, and, farther off, that of *SYRA*, all whose inhabitants follow the catholic rite; and after having traversed the long string of islands which extends from Cape *COLONNA* very far into the sea, and for a knowledge of which I refer to the chart, having nothing particular to say of them, since I saw them only at a distance, we cast anchor at the head of the Gulf of *NAPOLI*, off the town of the same name, which is commonly called *NAPOLI DI ROMANIA*, on the coast of the *MOREA*.

A fortress of prodigious elevation, the ascent to the top of which is by a flight of steps almost straight, the work of the Venetians, defends the town and harbour. This is one of the most trading towns of the *LEVANT*; it would be much more so, if the Turks knew how to afford protection, instead of spreading destruction, or multiplying obstacles. There, as well as on all the coast of the *MOREA*, many cargoes of oil are shipped, and olive-trees constitute the principal wealth of the country.

I availed myself of the few days which the frigate passed in the harbour of *NAPOLI DI ROMANIA*, in order to make a few excursions inland: I was fond of directing them towards the ancient and celebrated *ARGOS*. Had not history transmitted to us the certainty of its existence, we should at present be ignorant that it had ever been built. Time and men have annihilated every vestige of it, so powerful is the empire of destruction which consumes works the most substantial, and is incessantly

cessantly changing the surface of the globe! And man, hurried away in his ephemeral existence by the torrent of ages, acts as if he were to last for ever, and live eternally on the earth!

The cruise of the *MIGNONNE* in the LEVANT was terminated: we repaired to the Island of MALTA, concerning which I have given some account in my TRAVELS IN EGYPT; and, on board this ship, I entered the port of TOULON, on the 18th of October, 1780, at ten o'clock in the evening, after an absence and a journey of four years.

In terminating this work, I cannot refrain from expressing a sentiment which weighs on my mind, a wish which will be that of all men who have preserved the love of French literature. Great models exist; but by what fatality do they appear consigned to oblivion? Not being able to follow them, I take a delight in admiring them, and I have thought of paying them the sole homage of which I was capable, by employing no other language than that which they have taught us, and by writing Travels in GREECE, without any Greek expression, taking care to avoid that crowd of new words, which incapacity engendered, as pedantic empiricism wished to make of the language of the RACINES, VOLTAIRES, FÉNE'LONS, BOSSUETS, and BUFFONS, a barbarous tongue replete with foreign words, grotesquely metamorphosed into French. In taking up my pen to write this narrative, I invoked Peace, the object of every wish, and source of every blessing: it has not been able to resist the combinations of the guardian genius of FRANCE, nor the prodigies of our arms. Eternal glory to the wisdom by which it was dictated, to the courageous talents by which it was conquered! Mankind preserve the remembrance of great benefits, and gratitude will transmit this, from age to age, in the annals of nations.

There is another benefit which letters expect from this new state of peace and happiness; and where can we better place an invocation to Good Taste than at the end of Travels in countries which were so long the theatre of it? Privileged heirs of what ancient GREECE displayed in graces and talents, LAHARPE, DELILLE, SAINT LAMBERT, BOUFFLERS, LACEPEDE, BERNARDIN SAINT PIERRE, SE'GUR, &c. you who have all preserved that purity of style, that colouring of images, that justness of expression, that urbanity truly attic, which constituted the glory of our literature, exert your right of inheritance, and repel the sacrilegious efforts of Bad Taste, which has attempted, unfortunately with too much success, to take possession of your honourable domain: let it disappear for ever with its burlesque innovations; and our country shall soon be, what it was not long since, the abode of public prosperity, and the brilliant appanage of the fine arts.

I N D E X.

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- Children (New-born)*. Superstitious practices and whimsical conceptions which accompany their birth in Greece. Strange attention paid to them; mothers alone suckle them, 343. 344 and foll. They acquire a robust constitution and a quick growth; remedies employed for curing the disorders natural to this age, 370.—See the article *Delivery*.
- Chio*, or *Scio*. The courtesy of the inhabitants of this island is renowned. The name of *Chio* signifies *whiteness*. These islanders are the most polite and the most witty of the Greeks, 481. 482. The gardens of this island are very agreeable. The Turks have suffered the plague to penetrate there for want of precautions, 486. 487. The channel which separates Chio from Asia Minor, is very narrow, 488.
- Choiseul-Gouffier*. He persuades the islanders of Milo to stop up an aperture whence issued destructive vapours. They follow his advice, 428.
- Citium*. A town celebrated for the birth of Zeno, 55.

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H

HARE. The flesh of this animal is prohibited by the law of Mahomet. The Greeks are great destroyers of this species of game. Popular error, accredited also in the East, that there is no sex among hares, 383. 384.

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Hawk (Sparrow). This bird of prey, as well as the falcon, remains during the whole year in the Greek Islands: kites, nevertheless, are there only birds of passage, 388.

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Hiera. This island has no longer any thing remarkable; the modern Greeks call it *Agio-Strati*, 505.

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I

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J

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Junipers. These tall shrubs yield no gum in the Island of Argentiera. The Greeks make use of the oil which they draw from the stem and branches for the cure of the itch, 312.

KAMEDRON.

K

KAMEDRON. This is the germander, a tree, an infusion of whose leaves serves for curing fevers and strengthening the stomach 527.

Kammeni, or Burnt Island. A small island, called in antiquity *Hiera*, sacred. It is formed of calcined substances. Two sorts of Kammeni are distinguished, 188. 189 and foll. After a violent shock of an earthquake, it appears quite resplendent with burning stones. Dreadful noise which is heard in this island, 194. 195 and foll. The Little Kammeni is destitute of vegetable earth. The Great Kammeni produces a few herbs, 202.

Katherinn. A large village or town, which serves as a residence to an Albanian prince, 521.

Kerry. This Frenchman becomes consul at Canea, 214.

Kupros, a shrub known to botanists by the name of *Larosonia inermis*, or thornless Egyptian privet. The women dye their nails with its flowers. This custom is general in Turkey, 25. 26.

L

LADANUM, known among the ancients under the name of *cistus*. Goats formerly collected this resinous substance. New proceedings which are at this day employed for gathering it, 263 and foll.

Larnica. The town of this name is fallen from its ancient splendour. An unhealthful abode. The heat there is suffocating. Immense cisterns, formerly destined for preserving the oil which was drawn from forests of olive-trees, 54. 55.

Lemnos. Nature has done every thing for the embellishment of this celebrated island, and yet it is in a wretched state under the tyrannic yoke of the Mussulmans, 504.

Lentisk. This shrub is very common on the surface of Argentiera. The Greeks of some islands burn no other wood. From its fruits is expressed an oil good for burning, 315. The women of the East make great use of a gum which is drawn from it for preserving the teeth and making the breath sweet. Details respecting this gum, 360.

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Lero. A poor island, covered with high mountains which contain minerals, 161.

Limaßol, formerly Nemesia. Is no longer any thing but a miserable town full of ruins. Its harbour, however, is still pretty much frequented, 56.

M

MACEDONIA. The houses are very well built in that country. The aspect of the villages there is agreeable. The dogs keep a good watch around them, 521 and foll.

Macri

- Macri* (Gulf of). It affords excellent havens to shipping, 80.
- Madder*. Plant with which cottons, in the Island of Cyprus, are dyed red. Precautions which ought to be observed when a vessel takes in madder, 43. 44.
- Madnests*.—See *Hydrophobia*.
- Marcopoli*. Evangelical modesty of that Greek priest. He was very well informed, and respected both by the Turks and Greeks, 295. 296.
- Marriage*. The Greek women, before their marriage, are obliged to furnish evident proofs of their virtue, 356. 357. The Greeks marry young. Before this ceremony, the young girl is conducted to the bath. Dances announce the retinue which accompanies the new couple to church, 364. 365. The young couple choose a godfather and godmother. A singular ceremony which is practised for ascertaining the virtue of the bride, 366. 367 and foll.
- Marseilles*. Striking picture of this town, formerly so commercial, 12. 13. Cause of our losses, *ib.* and foll. This town carries on a trade with Canea, 215.
- Mastic*, or gum, drawn from the *lentisk*.—See that word.
- Melanarus*, a fish called *oblade* on our coasts of the Mediterranean, 165.—See too *Plate V. fig. 1.*
- Merchandise* (List of articles of) which enter into the trade of the Archipelago.—See the word *Trade*.
- Mézerai*. This historian speaks of a great irruption of grasshoppers in the South of France, 42.
- Milo* (Island of).—See too the article *Argentiera*.—Fires long since kindled there consume the bowels of the earth. The vegetable earth there is, nevertheless, very productive. Population has singularly diminished in this island, 423. 424. Almost all the inhabitants of this island have their legs swelled, owing to pestilential miasmata. Strangers dread to make there even a momentary stay. The town of Milo at this day presents the spectacle of desolation, 425. 426. There, is perceived an aperture in the earth, whence issued vapours very destructive. It has been stopped up: but these vapours have found other issues, 428. Vapour-baths produced by the general conflagration of the interior of the island. Hippocrates formerly sent patients thither. The sulphur which is drawn from this island is reckoned to be of the best quality, 430. Under a wise administration, it might cease to be an unhealthful abode, 432. A more particular description of the Island of Milo. The harbour affords excellent anchorage, 434. This island frequently experiences earthquakes, 440. 441. Frightful phenomena which are there seen, *ib.* and foll.
- Mineralogy*. The mines of *Argentiera*, formerly worked, are at this day abandoned. They never were very productive. The Russians attempted to work them anew, 302. 303. Properties of an argillaceous substance called *Cimolian earth*. No work of mineralogy makes mention of it. The Author has met with it no where. It is a natural soap, 304. 305. This earth is very fit for taking out grease spots. The Romans were acquainted with this mineralogical substance, since Pliny speaks of it, 305. 306. Rock alum is to be found at Milo,

- Milo*, in natural excavations. It there shews itself in efflorescence. Salt is made of it, 430. 431.
- Mines of Calamo*, 160. Admirable stalactites which are found in the convent of Catholicos, 236.
- Mitylene*. This island, sometimes called Metelin, was the country of Pittacus. The position of Mitylene renders the possession of it very important.
- Monks, Greek*.—See the word *Caloyers*.
- Morea (The)*. On all the coast of this peninsula, a great trade is carried on in oil, 538.
- Mormyrus*, a fish whose flesh does not correspond with the beauty of its exterior, 165.
- Mulberry-trees*. There are small woods of them in the Island of Cyprus, 33.
- Mullets*. In summer, a great many of these fishes are taken in the Archipelago, 165.
- Mullet (Bearded)*. This fish is very scarce in the sea of the Archipelago. Cruel sufferings to which the Romans, through luxury, put this fish, which produces the most beautiful shades, 412. 413.
- Murad Bey*. Character of this chief of the Mamalûks. His bravery, 16. 17.
- Muræna*, or sea-serpent. Notes on this fish, 109. 110.—See too *Plate IV. fig. 1.*—Its dimensions, 111. 112. These fishes are common in the Archipelago, 113.
- Myconi*. This island has a harbour much frequented by navigators. The Myconites neglect the culture of their lands, in order to give themselves up to trade. Every thing is parched up in their fields. Their bad reputation in antiquity, 476. 477 and foll.
- Myrtles*. Grow spontaneously in the Island of Candia, and form the hedges of the country, 256.

N

- NANFIO* (Island of). Its first name, 181. It was formerly covered with forests, 182. Red partridges are there very common. Great wretchedness in that island, 183.
- Napoli di Romania*. It has a fortress of prodigious elevation, the work of the Venetians: it is built near the site of ancient Argos, 538.
- Naxia*. The Author points out this famous island as likely to serve as an emporium to the French traders in the Archipelago. It is the largest of the Cyclades. The Greeks of the present day are there still free like their ancestors. Beauty of this island, 462. The principal inhabitants are descended from ancient families of France, Spain, and Italy, and are renowned for their affability and politeness. The coasts of their island afford good places of shelter, 464.
- Nicaria*. This small island has no harbours. Scanty population. Ungrateful soil, 476.
- Nicosia*. Capital of the Island of Cyprus. The palaces and the church of this town. Its agreeable situation, 54.
- Niebuhr*, a Danish traveller. His account respecting grasshoppers, 41.

Nightingale. This bird directs its route towards the south, and lives during the winter in Lower Egypt. It does not breed there, and is silent during its stay in that climate, which is foreign to it, 401.

Nio. An island celebrated by the death of Homer. Hospitable character of the inhabitants. Kindness of the women. The island is fertile in corn, 183. 184. The dress of the women is repugnant to decency, 186. Dissertation on the dress of the Turkish women, 186. 187.

Nisari (Island of). Its fabulous origin, 136. Shoals near this island, 136. 137.

O

OBSEQUIES (Funeral). Death among the Greeks always inspires sentiments of unfeigned grief. Relations frequently visit the grave, and there make repeated offerings, 376. 377. They invoke the dead in a loud voice. The dead are carried to the grave with their face uncovered, and in their richest garments, 378. 379.

Oil, good for burning. The Greeks of Argentiera draw it from the lentisk, and several islands burn no other wood but that of this shrub, 315.

Olive-trees. They are far less common in the Island of Cyprus than in past times. The soil is very favourable to this tree, 32. 33. No soil is more favourable to it than the Island of Candia. The Greeks know not how to derive from it the advantage which we do, 260. These trees were consumed by the flames in the Island of Argentiera, during the wars between the Venetians and the Turks, 299. Olive-oil is sometimes introduced into curative methods, 372. 373.

Olivier. This naturalist and traveller asserts that *Cimolian earth* is only a slow and gradual decomposition of porphyries, occasioned by subterraneous fires, 307.

Olympus. This mountain, so celebrated, is occupied by Albanian robbers. Their hatred is terrible against the inhabitants of Salonica, 515. The Author, nevertheless, travels thither disguised as a physician, 516. 517. He arrives at the foot of this mountain. A priest throws great difficulties in his way, 522. 523. Vegetation is there in a most flourishing state. Storks are there very common. Veneration which is still entertained for these birds, 524. 525. Having reached a certain height, the Author sees a convent of Greek monks. Above this insulated convent there are no more habitations on Olympus, 531. Sharp cold which he there experiences. The summit is covered with snow and ice, and it is impossible to reach it, *ib.* Magnificent prospect which is to be viewed from the top of this mountain. The Author's fellow-traveller falls ill. He is cured by a monk, 532. 533.

Olympus (Little). A charming mountain of the Island of Cyprus, 51.

Onions. This legume causes no shedding of tears in Egypt, as it does in Europe. It is also very mild in the environs of Cnidus, 124.

Orange-trees. These charming shrubs form bowers round the habitations of the Island of Cyprus. Delightful picture which the Author draws of these odoriferous bowers, 39.

Orfani. This gulf was known among the ancients under the name of *Sinus Strymonicus*, 599.

Origany. Employed as a remedy by the Greeks of the islands of the Archipelago, 373. 374.

PAINT. In the islands of the Archipelago, it is composed of the bulbs of an iris. Use which is made of this composition. The face of the women is not affected by it, 361. 362.

Paillouri. A cape which, with Cape Drepano, forms the Gulf of Cassandra, 510.

Paleo-Castra. This is the name which the modern Greeks give to all ancient towns. A dreadful fright with which the inhabitants of one of these towns are seized on the approach of two vessels, 279.

Paphos. Formerly the abode of delight, now presents the aspect of wretchedness, 57.

Paros. This celebrated island has had several names. Its ancient splendour. It gave birth to the most illustrious statuary in the world, 451. 452. A small town has replaced the ancient city of Paros. The coast of this island presents good anchorages: the Russians made some stay here, 453. 454.

Partridge. In the islands of the Archipelago this bird with difficulty endures confinement. Bartavelle, or red partridge, of a singular species, whose bill grows long, and bends inward, 104. 105. These birds are so common in the Island of Naxos, that the inhabitants are obliged to destroy a great part of their eggs, 182. 183. Partridges, especially red ones, are in great numbers in the Islands of the Archipelago, *ib.* It is as difficult to get at them as at hares. The berries of the lentisk occasion their flesh to contract a bitter flavour. The gray partridge is not known in the East, 389. 390. There is a particular species of partridge in the East, which appears there only for a few days, *ib.*

Patmos (Island of). Arid rocks and numerous capes. It is celebrated from the exile of St. John. Error respecting a convent of monks of this island, 472.

Patriarch (The), is appointed by the Grand Signior. This eminent place is an object of speculation, 230. 231. Humiliating manner in which he is appointed, *ib.* Translation of a firman for the nomination of a Greek bishop, 233.

Pauvo. The authority of that traveller combated by the Author of this work, 6. 7. 9.

Pedicus. A river of the Island of Cyprus, which rolls down in its waters red jasper, 30.

Pelagnisi. An islet of the Archipelago, 536.

Pereb. Etymology of the name of that fish. The ancients considered it as unwholesome food. It is asserted that there are none in the Ocean, 409. 410.

Pheasants. During the winter these birds are sometimes seen in the most northern islands of the Archipelago: captains of ships lay in a stock of them, 392.

Physic. The thermal waters of Argentiera are, among the Greeks, reckoned to possess great virtues. The Author thinks that partial applications of these waters on the parts affected, would be more efficacious than total immersion, 308. 309 and foll. Most of the disorders by which our flocks are attacked, are unknown in the Levant. The shepherds themselves are the physicians of their flocks, 324. 325. In the Greek islands, all physic is founded only on ridiculous practices. The women are the physicians the most in fashion, 371 and foll. They have hereditary recipes in certain families, 374 and foll. Manner in which the Turks dress wounds, 375 and foll. Character of one of these quack-doctors, 450.

Plague (The). Frequently ravages the Island of Rhodes. Pestiferous persons penetrate, with as much liberty as a healthy man, into the different countries of the Ottoman empire. Singular preservative indicated to the author by some monks, 100. 101. Courage is the best preservative, 141. 142. The small-pox is the forerunner of that terrible scourge, and almost always precedes it, *ib.* For want of care, the Turks have suffered the plague to find its way to Chio, 486. 487. Almost every year the plague desolates Smyrna. Stupid resignation of the Turks who might oppose the ravages of that destructive disorder, 496. A person may secure himself from it by holding no communication with those who are infected by it, 497. 498. The constitution is of great weight in this disorder. Detail on the subject of its commencement, its progress, and its end, 500. 501.

Flowers (Golden). Are very common in the Island of Candia, 374.

Pelicanro (Island of). The inhabitants of this island pickle in vinegar turtles which they kill, 398. This is the ancient Pholegandros: its soil is extremely rugged. Scanty population. The vine grows there in the midst of stones. It is the rendezvous of birds of passage, 447.

Poliwo (Island of). The Venetians destroyed by fire the olive-trees with which it was covered. It is separated only by a little channel from the Island of Argentiera. It might be cultivated, and the rearing of bees be there attended to, 326. 327. It might also furnish commercial speculations, and a person would there lead a pleasant and quiet life, *ib.*

Præse. Near this little haven, are seen grottoes dug in the rock. The environs furnish a great quantity of wild artichokes, good to be eaten, 314.

Pregoulina, mother of a hospodar of Moldavia. She assures the Author that women felt much less than men the malignant influence of a residence in Milo, 426. 427.

Priests (Greek). They go through their religious ceremony with precipitation and irreverence. Monotony of their singing, 229. 230. They debase their character by the most greedy cupidity, 231 and foll.

Pyrgos, is the most agreeable place in the Island of Santorin. Description of this little town, 205. 206.

Q

QUAILS. Common at Alexandria, 21. 22. They never stop in the Island of Rhodes, 106. 107. The period of their passage varies according to the winds which prevail. They follow a uniform route from which they seldom deviate. They are salted in the Greek Islands, 387. 391.

R

RATS. They multiply in the Island of Rhodes. Manner in which vessels get rid of them, 91.

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